



# Try, Test and Learn Fund

## *In-school Parent Employment Service*

Using insights from the Priority Investment Approach, the Try, Test and Learn Fund is trialling new and innovative approaches to assist groups of people at risk of long-term welfare dependence.

The Try, Test and Learn Fund will help achieve the objectives of welfare reform — that is, to develop a modern welfare system that increases the capacity of individuals, reduces the risk of welfare dependency and maintains a strong welfare safety net.

### What does the evidence tell us?

- In 2016, there were 3,760 young parents in Australia aged 18 or under receiving Parenting Payment. On average, all current young parents are expected to be on income support for around 48 years over their future lifetime.
- If nothing changes for these young parents, 79 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 57 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.
- In addition, analysis shows, around 620 current young parents will remain on income support for the rest of their lives.

### What was *In-school Parent Employment Service*?

An employment service specifically for young parents was incorporated into schools in the Armadale region of Perth.

The in-school service welcomed parents from the school community to drop in and discuss their work and study pathways. The service offered tailored support such as career coaching and referrals to jobactive and ParentsNext.

An on-site business development officer identified available jobs with a range of employers. They then worked with the young parents to assist them in gaining the relevant training to prepare for available jobs.

### What were we trying to achieve?

Improve young parents' job readiness and increase their engagement with training and applying for work.

Success in getting a job aimed to improve the wellbeing of the young parent, and their child, and help reduce the risk of long-term welfare dependency.

### Fast facts

**Note:** This project has ended.

**Priority group:** Young parents

**Target participant number:** 70  
(Actual number: 87)

**Location:** Armadale, Western Australia

**Trial period:** 27 months

**Total funding:** \$550,000

**Co-designers:** Minderoo/Generation One, and Challis Community Primary School

**Service providers:** The Minderoo Foundation

**Potential future saving:** The purpose of these initiatives is to test whether an intervention works to reduce long-term reliance on welfare. If 5 per cent of participants (4) move off welfare, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs.

## How was this initiative new and innovative?

The initiative trialled the effectiveness of placing an employment service within a school, to see if it increased the likelihood of young parents at the school getting a job, or becoming better prepared to find work.

This may have been the first in-school employment service of its type for young parents in Australia.