



Try, Test and Learn Fund

Skills for micro-enterprise

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?

- More than 60 per cent of young carers have not studied beyond high school.
- On average, current young carers are expected to be on income support in 43 years over their lifetime.
- If nothing changes, almost 1,800 current young carers will remain on income support for the rest of their lives.

What was *Skills for micro-enterprise*?

Young carers learned skills and were matched with support to enhance their ability to create and run small businesses, such as developing a business plan and marketing strategy.

The initiative was designed to work around care duties, and those young carers who could not attend the course face-to-face were given access to an online delivery platform.

What were we trying to achieve?

We were trying to better utilise the existing skills of carers, and build on them. This was an opportunity for young carers to create and run small businesses that could fit in with their lives.

How was this initiative new and innovative?

This was an initiative designed to equip young carers with the skills to run small businesses, while respecting their carer duties.

Fast facts

Note: This project has ended.

Priority group: Young carers

Target participant number: 70
(Actual number: 32)

Location: Victoria

Trial period: 26 months

Total funding: \$800,000

Co-designers: Good Shepherd Microfinance, Spark Strategy Little Dreamers, Coder Academy, Young Change Agents, Carers Australia, Jobs Australia, Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, and representatives from the Tranche 1 Policy Hack

Service providers: Good Shepherd Microfinance (subcontracting Carers Victoria)

Potential future saving: The purpose of these initiatives is to test whether an intervention works to reduce long-term reliance on welfare. If around 31 per cent (10) of participants move off income support because of this project, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs of the project.