



# Try, Test and Learn Fund

## *Build and Grow*

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?

- 22 per cent of all current 17–19 year olds receiving student payments are expected to be on income support in 10 years.
- From 2003 to 2012, there were 7,160 vocational or university students who started receiving a student payment aged 17 to 19; then experienced more than 12 months on unemployment payments; and were receiving unemployment payments in 2015–16. On average, these former young students who transitioned directly to unemployment payments are expected to receive income support in 33 years of their future lifetimes.
- If nothing changes for these former young students, 39 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 30 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.

## What is *Build and Grow*?

An eight-week practical training course delivered at a simulated worksite. Training focuses on practical skills relevant to the construction industry, or potentially other industries such as landscaping. This hands-on training will help participants move into employment at the conclusion of the program.

In addition to intensive training, students are paired with a youth development worker who helps address individual barriers to work through referrals. This initiative exposes participants to the realities of the workplace, supporting them to prepare for the transition to work.

## What are we trying to achieve?

Support participants to develop the skills and attitudes they need to become successful employees through a combination of practical training and improved emotional wellbeing.

## Fast facts

**Priority group:** Unemployed former students

**Target participant number:** 510

**Locations:** Quakers Hill and Penrith, NSW

**Trial period:** 37 months

**Total funding:** \$2.48 million

**Service provider:** Productivity Bootcamp

**Potential future saving:** The purpose of these initiatives is to test whether an intervention works to reduce long-term reliance on welfare. If 6 per cent of participants (33) move off welfare, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs.

**Note:** Due to changes in circumstances, adjustments have been made to target participant numbers, trial period and total funding.

## How is this initiative new and innovative?

This initiative is innovative in its delivery of practical job training in a simulated work environment, as well as its approach to addressing barriers, such as mental health, housing or transport issues.