



Try, Test and Learn Fund

2016 Budget

The Try, Test and Learn Fund is an innovative approach to developing and implementing ways of helping people live independently of welfare. The approach will target groups who have the capacity to work and are at risk of long-term welfare dependency to help ensure Australia's safety net remains sustainable for future generations.

What was announced in the 2016 Budget?

The Commonwealth Government has announced a \$96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund to finance innovative policy interventions to help people find jobs and avoid getting trapped on welfare.

The new interventions will target groups of people who have the capacity to work and are at risk of long-term welfare dependency.

The groups of people will be identified through the finalisation of the actuarial report and accompanying data soon to be available through the Australian Priority Investment Approach to Welfare.

Under the Priority Investment Approach, the Government has commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake an actuarial analysis of the social security system to identify risk factors driving long-term welfare dependency. This will help the Government to better assess the effectiveness of policy designed to decrease welfare dependency.

New insights to be gained through the Priority Investment Approach will allow for the design and assessment of innovative policies which can increase the chances of sustained employment and self-reliance.

Under the Try, Test and Learn Fund, the Department of Social Services will seek evidence-based proposals for policy interventions from relevant Commonwealth agencies and external experts and from the not-for-profit and non-government sector who will all have access to the relevant data.

Annual actuarial valuations and open data platforms will be used to track the effectiveness of policy interventions and ineffective approaches would be ceased and funding re-directed.

More information

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services' Budget measures, visit the [Department of Social Services](http://www.dss.gov.au) website (www.dss.gov.au).

For information about the 2016 Budget, visit the [Australian Government budget](http://www.budget.gov.au) website (www.budget.gov.au).