



# Try, Test and Learn Fund

## *Career Readiness for Young Parents*

Using insights from the Priority Investment Approach, the \$96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund will deliver evidence-based policies that improve peoples' lives.

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 is *Career Readiness for Young Parents*?

Young parents will be paired with a case manager to support them to improve their job readiness. The case manager will provide young parents with advice and assistance on the development of a career path, and work with each young parent to increase their understanding of expectations within a work environment.

Young parents will also be provided with work experience opportunities, and will be assisted in finding local child care places.

### What are we trying to achieve?

Empower young parents to address barriers to their employment and gain critical skills for future work.

Achieving this will make the young parents more likely to achieve long-term employment and financial independence, which will in turn help their children have better life outcomes.

### Fast facts

**Priority group:** Young parents

**Recipient numbers:** 60

**Location:** Mandurah and Rockingham, Western Australia

**Trial period:** 28 months

**Total funding:** \$1 million (ex-GST)

**Co-designers:** Bridging the Gap, Australasian Housing Institute, and Ruah Community Services

**Service providers:** Bridging the Gap Inc

**Potential future saving:** The purpose of these initiatives is to test whether an intervention works to reduce long-term reliance on welfare. It is not possible to predict success rates in advance—this is the purpose of testing new approaches. If 25 per cent of participants (15) take up some work when they would not otherwise have done so, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs.

## How is this initiative new and innovative?

The innovation in this initiative is the way in which it delivers intensive support to young parents from a trusted advisor; and its focus on non-vocational barriers to employment, such as developing a work mindset, or assisting with housing stability, financial management, justice system problems, or social/emotional wellbeing.

## How will this initiative be evaluated?

This initiative will be tracked using a range of evaluation methods, such as surveys, participant interviews and actuarial analysis.