



# Try, Test and Learn Fund

## *Carer Achievement Pathway*

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?

- 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 is *Carer Achievement Pathway*?

A carer coordinator will be appointed to work with young carers to help them identify and pursue career aspirations and develop an action plan for the future. The coordinator will help carers identify the support services they need, such as counselling or respite care and help them access those services

An individually-tailored online portal will facilitate access to services. The development phase of the project will work with carers to identify the sorts of services they need and how to best access them.

### What are we trying to achieve?

We are trying to harness the expertise of others to help young carers develop their careers, and access the support they need along the way.

### How is this initiative new and innovative?

Combining both a carer coordinator and a new online portal that complements Carer Gateway will give more extensive, multi-channel support than existing programs. The development phase of the project will identify new and innovative ways to better help young carers meet their needs.

### 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.

### Fast facts

**Priority group:** Young carers

**Recipient numbers:** 360

**Location:** Western Sydney

**Trial period:** 27 months

**Total funding:** \$840,000

**Co-designers:** Carers Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, Northside Community Forum, Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, and a selection of representatives from the Tranche 1 Policy Hack

**Service providers:** Carers NSW (subcontracting University of Wollongong)

**Potential future saving:** \$1.8 million in total future lifetime welfare costs