



# Try, Test and Learn Fund

## *Build and Grow*

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?

- 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, all of 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 in 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 will be paired with a Youth Development Worker who will help address individual barriers to work through referrals to service providers. This initiative exposes participants to the realities of the workplace, allowing them to be better prepared 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

**Recipient numbers:** 480

**Locations:** Quakers Hill and Penrith

**Trial period:** 27 months

**Total funding:** \$2.25 million

**Co-designer:** Productivity Bootcamp

**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. It is not possible to predict success rates in advance—this is the purpose of testing new approaches. If 7 per cent of participants (34) move off welfare, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs

## 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.

## 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.