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Try, Test and Learn Fund

Initiative: *Dunn Lewis F3style*

## Location: New South Wales

# What are we trying to achieve?

# Fast facts

**Priority group:** At-risk young people

**Participant numbers:** 96

**Locations:** Ulladulla, NSW

**Trial period:** 20 months

**Total funding:** $0.82 million

**Service provider:** Dunn and Lewis Youth Development Foundation Ltd

**Potential future saving:** If around 21 per cent of participants move off income support because of this project, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs of the project.

This project will support at-risk young people in the Shoalhaven region to build self-confidence, skills and work experience that will lead to better engagement with meaningful employment.

# What is *Dunn Lewis F3style*?

An initial engagement and assessment with each young person will help identify barriers to employment and tailor the supports and activities offered.

A mentor will have a key role, helping participants identify their passions, maintain engagement in the project and pursue work and study goals.

Depending on individual need, referrals to other support services will be provided as well as in-house and external training opportunities. Participants will have three hours’ paid work experience every week through in-house opportunities including planning and operating a garden to table pop up cafe and contributing to the *Living Life in Ulladulla* online directory. When ready, participants will move on to employment rotations at four local businesses, with mentor support. The aim is for participants to develop work skills, understand their needs and goals, and move to meaningful long-term employment.

What does the evidence tell us?

Young unemployed people face a variety of barriers to further education, training and employment.

If nothing changes, 42 per cent of 16-21 year olds currently receiving with Youth Allowance (other) or Disability Support Pension with mental health as the primary condition will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 33 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.

How is this initiative new and innovative?

The combination of mentoring and in-house work experience, followed by work experience in local businesses,
is a service offer that differs significantly to those currently available.

Local retirees provide mentoring, imparting valuable life experience and passing on intergenerational skills. The community centre provides training, education and work experience, all on site.

Using insights from the Priority Investment Approach, the $96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund is gathering evidence on new or innovative approaches to addressing barriers to work.

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.