



## A message from the Minister

In Adelaide today I announced the first three projects to be supported under the Try, Test and Learn Fund. Around \$4 million will be shared among three initiatives that aim to help young carers finish their education and find stable employment. You'll find information about these young carer initiatives [here](#).

My Department is now working on finalising funding arrangements with potential service delivery providers for the carer projects. Once that process is finished, then the hard work really begins. I expect to see on-the-ground implementation in the coming months.

I will be announcing more projects for our other two initial priority groups—young parents and students at risk of long-term unemployment—soon. My Department will alert you to any major developments in the Try, Test and Learn Fund through this newsletter.

Evaluation is an important focus of the Try, Test and Learn Fund. Through these trial initiatives, Government will collect new evidence on what works to reduce long-term dependence on welfare, among our priority groups. Lessons learned will be used to improve Government policy into the future.

A lot of work has been done to reach this point and I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to date, particularly your willingness to work collaboratively. Remember there will be more tranches, with different priority groups. I look forward to seeing your solutions to welfare dependency among our most vulnerable community members.

*Christian Porter, Minister for Social Services*

## Update on access to data

Accredited researchers can now apply for access to a de-identified subset of Priority Investment Approach data. Access is provided through a password protected online research gateway. The gateway allows accredited researchers to access the data remotely.

Strict security and confidentiality protocols have been applied, and access will only be granted on a case-by-case basis. This gateway, managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), allows accredited researchers to analyse the data in a secure environment. Please email the AIHW at [pia.dataset@aihw.gov.au](mailto:pia.dataset@aihw.gov.au) if you have any queries about the dataset or access arrangements.

In late 2017, public access will be provided to a subset of aggregate Priority Investment Approach data. This data will be available online, and accessible through the Australian Bureau of Statistics TableBuilder program—a simple tool that allows users to analyse data with point-and-click technology. The aggregate data is a five per cent sample of the de identified dataset.

In coming months, DSS will also provide access to a more sophisticated set of unit record data that is a synthetic version of the de identified true data. This will allow researchers to conduct more analytical work outside of the secure data environment. We will provide further details about these data projects, as they become available. Information will also be provided [here](#).

## **Keep in touch**

Until the next update, please feel free to distribute this newsletter to your networks, and encourage them to sign up for updates [here](#). You can also contact us at our new email address: [TTLFund@dss.gov.au](mailto:TTLFund@dss.gov.au).