



# Try, Test and Learn Fund

## *Skills for micro-enterprise*

Using insights from the Priority Investment Approach, the \$96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund is trialling new and innovative approaches to assist groups of people at risk of long-term welfare dependence.

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 *Skills for micro-enterprise*?

Young carers will learn skills and be matched with support to enhance their ability to create and run small businesses, such as developing a business plan and marketing strategies.

The initiative will be flexible enough to work around care duties, and those young carers who cannot attend the course face-to-face will have access to an online delivery platform.

### What are we trying to achieve?

We are trying to better utilise the existing skills of carers, and build on them. This is an opportunity for young carers to create and run small businesses that can fit in with their lives.

### How is this initiative new and innovative?

This is the first initiative to equip young carers with the skills to run small businesses, while respecting their carer duties.

### 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:** 90

**Location:** Melbourne

**Trial period:** 27 months

**Total funding:** \$800,000

**Co-designers:** Good Shepherd Microfinance, a consortium led by Spark Strategy (also comprising Little Dreamers, Coder Academy and Young Change Agents), Carers Australia, Jobs Australia, Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, and a selection of representatives from the Tranche 1 Policy Hack

**Service providers:** Good Shepherd Microfinance (subcontracting Carers Victoria)

**Potential future saving:** \$1.6 million in total future lifetime welfare costs