



## Minister's message

Now that we have a new depth of knowledge about the likelihood of welfare dependency among some groups of Australians who may be able to work, we face a moral imperative to find new ways of intervening early to help them into a stable job. By achieving this goal, we will also help avert intergenerational welfare dependency, and contribute to the sustainability of our welfare system.

Since my address to the Press Club in September, my Department has been hard at work to enable innovative ideas for delivery for our first priority groups. In this newsletter, they provide a snapshot of consultation that has happened and that is being planned in readiness for the opening of the \$96 million Try, Test and Learn Fund in December.

We expect that the Fund will initially open for ideas submissions for around two months. Note also that it is expected to open for submissions several times over multiple years, allowing for additional opportunities to submit proposals.

The successful involvement of government and non-government stakeholders will be pivotal to the implementation of the Priority Investment Approach and the Fund—so thank you for your interest.

If you want more information, I encourage you to visit the [Department of Social Services website](#) or email [InvestmentApproach@dss.gov.au](mailto:InvestmentApproach@dss.gov.au).

***Christian Porter, Minister for Social Services***

## Consultation

On 21 October, the Department of Social Services (DSS) ran two half-day consultation workshops to seek stakeholder input on the design of the Try, Test and Learn Fund. There were 32 stakeholders in attendance including large, medium and small service providers, academia, social enterprise, corporate sector, local council and social impact organisations.

The workshops aimed to gather insights into the thinking behind the funding model, processes and operations underpinning the Fund.

To ensure innovation is encouraged, we are determined to find a relatively streamlined approach that can handle a large volume of ideas and proposals, whilst adhering to principles of probity and transparency.

Like any new process, designing the Fund comes with challenges and opportunities, and including stakeholders in the design is critical to understanding and addressing these.

It is expected that the Try, Test and Learn Fund will have the following broad framework:

- An ideas generation phase seeking ideas for policy proposals through different channels
- An intensive policy co-development phase for a selected shortlist of ideas
- A funding process to seek a provider to deliver ideas.

The workshops are the first step in our engagement with you about the Fund, and there will be more opportunities to connect with us to discuss your ideas.

## Next Steps

We are conscious that genuine consultation is very important in developing successful policy or program responses through the Fund. We have already received a high level of interest from stakeholders who want to engage with us.

There will be more opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the lead up to the Fund's opening. In December we are looking to run a Policy Hack, which is an ideas generation workshop for stakeholders. More details will be provided shortly via this newsletter and through the Department of Social Services website.

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 [InvestmentApproach@dss.gov.au](mailto:InvestmentApproach@dss.gov.au).