



Try, Test and Learn Fund

In-school Parent Employment Service

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?

- In 2016, there were 3,760 young parents in Australia aged 18 or under receiving Parenting Payment. On average, all current young parents are expected to be on income support for around 48 years over their future lifetime.
- If nothing changes for these young parents, 79 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 57 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.
- In addition, analysis shows, around 620 current young parents will remain on income support for the rest of their lives.

What is *In-school Parent Employment Service*?

An employment service specifically for young parents will be incorporated into two primary schools in the Armadale region of Perth.

The in-school service will welcome parents from the school community to drop in and discuss their work and study pathways. The service will offer tailored services such as career coaching and referrals to jobactive and ParentsNext.

An on-site business development officer will identify available jobs with a range of employers. They will then work with the young parents to assist them in gaining the relevant training to prepare for available jobs.

Fast facts

- **Priority group:** Young parents
- **Recipient numbers:** 60-70
- **Location:** Armadale, Western Australia
- **Trial period:** 24 months
- **Total funding:** \$500,000
- **Co-designers:** Minderoo/Generation One, and Challis Community Primary School
- **Service providers:** Minderoo will be invited to apply for funding
- **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 15 per cent of participants (10) take up some work when they would not otherwise have done so, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs

What are we trying to achieve?

Improve young parents' job readiness and increase their engagement with training and applying for work.

Success in getting a job will improve the wellbeing of the young parent, and their child, and will help reduce the risk of long-term welfare dependency.

How is this initiative new and innovative?

The initiative will trial the effectiveness of placing an employment service within a school, to see if it increases the likelihood of young parents at the school getting a job, or becoming better prepared to find work.

To our knowledge, this will be the first in-school employment service of its type for young parents in Australia.

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.