



From the Minister

At the National Press Club in Canberra [this week](#) I announced the remarkable result that the Coalition Government's welfare to work focus has reduced the number of Australians under 65 dependent on welfare by 140,000. That's great news for the taxpayer and means improved lives with more people being self-reliant and fewer people becoming welfare dependent.

Two priority groups we have focused so far on have also shown great results. The number of young parents on income support has decreased by 13 per cent between 2013 and 2016 and the number of former young students moving from student payments to income support dropped by 10.5 per cent nation-wide between June 2015 and June 2016.

While we are achieving some great results, there is still more work to be done. At the National Press Club I also announced the opening of the next funding tranche for the Try, Test and Learn Fund.

Tranche two features new priority groups:

- older Newstart Allowance recipients
- working age carers receiving Carer Payment
- at-risk young people on income support, and
- migrants and refugees on income support

The idea submission process is different to tranche one. Submissions will be accepted from now until 28 September 2018. You must submit your grant application using a form that is available on both the [Community Grants Hub](#) and [GrantConnect](#) websites.

This announcement represents a major milestone for the Try, Test and Learn Fund. It marks the start of the next phase of submissions for new and innovative projects that improve the lives of our nation's most vulnerable Australians, through increased workforce participation or capacity to work. This point was reached through a lot of hard work and determination from many of you. I thank you again for your continued support.

In the weeks leading up to my National Press Club address, I announced 14 projects I have approved for funding for the Try, Test and Learn Fund's initial priority groups:

- 21 November: around \$8.7 million for [four initiatives](#) supporting young parents
- 14 November: around \$12.8 million for [seven initiatives](#) supporting young students at risk of unemployment, and unemployed former students; and
- 4 October: around \$3.7 million for [three initiatives](#) for young carers.

Thanks to all of you who contributed to getting these projects to the grants application stage. As the name suggests, the Try, Test and Learn Fund's focus is on testing new approaches to reducing long-term reliance on welfare, on evaluating these approaches, and on using learnings from the evaluation to inform future policy decisions. I am sure that you, like me, are now looking forward to seeing these projects funded, trialled, implemented and evaluated.

Christian Porter, Minister for Social Services

Tranche two

Please visit either the [Community Grants Hub](#) or [GrantConnect](#) website if you are interested in submitting a grant application for tranche two. We are also planning a number of stakeholder activities over coming months, and will provide a variety of online support. Details, including a schedule of events that we will update over time, will be provided on the DSS website and through this newsletter.

New valuation data

On 14 November, Minister Porter released the [2016 Valuation Report](#) from the Australian Priority Investment Approach to Welfare. The Valuation Report provides a snapshot of where we are, one year after the initial Baseline Valuation Report was released.

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](#). You can also contact us at: TTLFund@dss.gov.au.