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Try, Test and Learn Fund

Initiative: Women’s Employment into Action

# Fast facts

**Priority group:** Migrants and refugees

**Participant numbers:** 80

**Location:** Adelaide

**Trial period:** 17 months

**Total funding:** $938,000

**Service provider:** Australian Migrant Resource Centre

**Potential future saving:** If around nine per cent of participants move off income support because of this project, the savings to the welfare system are likely to outweigh the costs of the project.

Location: South Australia

# What are we trying to achieve?

This project seeks to increase the workforce participation of migrant women by providing culturally appropriate training and support to help them find employment in aged-care and disability-care.

# What is *Women's Employment into Action?*

The Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia is working with TAFE South Australia to develop and deliver training to 80 migrant and refugee women to prepare them to work in the aged-care and the disability-care sectors. The training will be delivered at no cost to participants.

The participants will have a range of work experience, qualifications, skills and levels of proficiency in English. The training and support will be tailored to the needs of the participants, including assisting people with overseas qualifications to have them recognised, arranging for recognition of prior learning, delivering pre-vocational training for people who need support to study, and delivering Certificate ll and Certificate lll courses for people who are ready to study. Participants will be supported with study assistance from bi-cultural classroom assistants, free child-care if needed and mentoring support.

All participants will be supported to find employment and/or will be linked with an aged-care or disability-care service provider to undertake work experience or undergo further training. All host work places will be offered cultural awareness training.

# What does the evidence tell us?

* While many migrants and refugees successfully gain employment within the first few years of arrival, a small group continues to struggle and this group is at elevated risk of long-term welfare dependence.
* On average, migrants and refugees who currently receive working-age payments are likely to be on income support for some or all of 30 years over the rest of their lives.
* If nothing changes, 56 per cent of this group will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 52 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.

# How is this initiative new and innovative?

This initiative will test this model of supported learning in aged-care and disability-care for this group, and test the ability of graduates to gain employment in this growing industry.

Using insights from the Priority Investment Approach, the $96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund is gathering evidence on new or innovative approaches to addressing barriers to work.

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.