



# Try, Test and Learn Fund

Initiative: *Fairbridge Leadership, Engagement, and Development*

Location: Western Australia

## What are we trying to achieve?

To improve the employability of young people living in the Peel region who are disengaged from work or study to complete training, find industries that are suited to their strengths and interests, and become job ready.

## What is *Fairbridge Leadership, Engagement, and Development*?

A 'try a trade' training program that provides young people with an opportunity to identify their preferred industry while completing accredited qualifications and addressing underlying barriers to employment.

Participants will receive a Certificate I in Leadership through completing studies including 'try a trade' units over 12 weeks. The 'try a trade' units include hospitality, conservation land management, and construction. Participants can then go on to complete a Certificate II in their preferred industry. They can also receive tailored support and referrals that may include literacy and numeracy support, mentoring, counselling, mental health support, transport, food and tailored learning plans.

## What does the evidence tell us?

- The barriers to further education and employment for young unemployed people are varied. While some will face minimal barriers to engaging in further education or taking up employment opportunities, others will face a number of challenges to making a successful transition.
- If nothing changes, 42 per cent of 16-21 year olds currently receiving with Youth Allowance (other) or Disability Support Pension with mental health as the primary condition will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 33 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.

## How is this initiative new and innovative?

This project uses a 'try a trade' approach that delivers an accredited qualification while allowing participants to sample different industries and prepare to choose their preferred career paths. It combines this approach with case management to address underlying barriers to employment.

### Fast facts

**Priority group:** At-risk young people

**Participant numbers:** 80

**Location:** Peel region

**Trial period:** 18 months

**Total funding:** \$525,000

**Service provider:** Fairbridge Western Australia

**Potential future saving:** If around 16 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.

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.