



Australian Priority Investment Approach to Welfare – Next Steps

The Priority Investment Approach is a new way of looking at the welfare system. It uses data analysis to provide insights into how the system is working and uses those insights to find innovative ways of helping more Australians live independently of welfare.

Why is this important?

The next stage of the Priority Investment Approach is how to best apply the findings of the valuation and subsequent analysis to improving outcomes for Australians.

These findings will help build better understandings of specific groups and their transition pathways into the welfare system. This enables the development of tailored responses which improve people's life chances and helps build the skills and experience they require to find work.

Groups identified by the Priority Investment Approach will receive support from current programs and from new and innovative policy responses to be developed through the \$96.1 million Try, Test and Learn Fund.

These new policy responses will be developed by external experts and those across the Social Services, Health, Education and Employment portfolios, as well as state and local governments.

The Government will review the overall impact of these new policy responses using actuarial analysis of Australia's welfare system, the data sets built to support them and other ongoing evaluation. We can then identify what works and move quickly to adapt or cease responses which are not working.

Young people are an initial focus. As the analysis is updated and refined each year, the selection of specific groups may change.

Access to data

To help foster innovative ideas, insights from the analysis will be shared with experts outside of and inside government.

In addition, by early 2017, access will be provided to de-identified, longitudinal social security data used to underpin the Priority Investment Approach.

The Department will follow strict security and confidentiality protocols when providing access to de-identified data.

Future valuations

The baseline valuation is just the start. Each annual valuation will enable more sophisticated analysis and more detailed understandings of the pathways into the welfare system.

This will allow for further identification of opportunities to provide vulnerable Australians tailored support at critical points in their life.

This is a long-term investment in Australia but if we are to change our current system and break the cycle of welfare dependency we need to start now.