



## Try, Test and Learn Fund – Migrants and refugees on income support

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.

### What we know

At 30 June 2017 there were 299,400 working age Australians from migrant and refugee backgrounds on working age payments, 35 per cent male and 65 per cent female. The latest Priority Investment Approach valuation shows the expected average future lifetime cost for migrants and refugees receiving working age payments is \$340,000 per person.

The estimated total future lifetime cost for the group is \$101.9 billion. On average, this group is expected to receive income support for some or all of 30 years over the rest of their lives. Thirty-two per cent are expected to receive income support for some or all of every year for the rest of their lives.

If nothing changes, 56 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 52 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.

### Migrants and refugees

This priority group is defined as migrants and refugees aged 16 to 64 years who are on working age payments.

Humanitarian entrants are generally entitled to income support without having to serve any waiting periods including the Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period.

Most migrants (other than humanitarian migrants) do not have immediate access to income support payments when they first arrive in Australia with most being required to serve the 104 week Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period for income support payments and a 10 year qualifying residency period for Age Pension and Disability Support Pension.

#### Migrants and refugees on income support

- 65 per cent are female
- 85 per cent live in major cities
- 78 per cent have a non-English speaking background

#### Refugees on income support

- 58 per cent are female
- 91 per cent live in major cities
- 64 per cent are on Newstart Allowance

### Try, Test and Learn Fund

The Try, Test and Learn Fund will seek new and innovative policy responses that support groups identified by Priority Investment Approach analysis as being at risk of long-term welfare dependency.