



Try, Test and Learn Fund – Working age carers

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 around 221,700 working age carers. The latest Priority Investment Approach valuation shows that the expected average future lifetime cost for working age carers is \$461,000 per person.

The estimated total future lifetime cost for the group is \$102.3 billion. On average, this group is expected to receive income support for some or all of 34 years over the rest of their lives. Sixty-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, 80 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 10 years, and 73 per cent will be receiving income support payments in 20 years.

Working age carers

This priority group is defined as carers aged 16 to 64 years who are on Carer Payment.

Analysis of working age carers shows that they are particularly vulnerable to the risk of long-term welfare dependency.

Carers face several barriers in accessing employment. Due to their caring responsibilities, they have limited time available to work. Over time, their lack of

work experience can become an additional barrier to work. Carers have indicated that they need more flexibility in support services and 'carer-friendly' workplaces.

Working age carers

- 56 per cent labour force participation (compared to 80 per cent labour force participation for non-carers)¹
- 71 per cent are female
- 60 per cent are aged between 46 and 64
- 33 per cent live in inner and outer regional areas

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.

¹ ABS data