

Whitlam Institute

WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY

University of  
Western Sydney  
Bringing knowledge to life



2011 SYMPOSIUM  
Labour Market Evolution  
The Challenges and Options  
for a 21st Century Economy

Presented by the Whitlam Institute  
in partnership with the  
University of Western Sydney  
School of Economics and Finance

Tuesday 29 November 2011  
InterContinental Sydney

*Whitlam*

## About the Whitlam Institute

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The Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney commemorates the life and work of Gough Whitlam and pursues the causes he championed. In doing so, the Institute bridges the historical legacy of Mr Whitlam's years in public life and the contemporary relevance of the Whitlam Agenda to public discourse and policy.

### Whitlam Institute Program

Through the Whitlam Institute Program we strive to be a leading national centre for dialogue and debate on public policy. The Program comprises a range of policy development and research projects, public education activities and special events.

In 2011 the Institute's work has included a continued focus on the Australian economy and further research into the influence that young people have on the democratic life of the nation including a major study on the electoral impact of younger voters. Our work on education policy is expanding with a new research project on the impact of external testing on school students. Work is well progressed on the current three-year ARC project on Federalism and Australian Schooling and its impact on quality and equity with colleagues at the University of Melbourne and partners. The Institute's collaboration with Riverside Theatres has seen a range of public forums in conjunction with the annual Behind the Lines political cartoons exhibition and most recently a forum on same sex marriage with Michael Kirby and former Senator Guy Barnett, supported by Dr Sev Ozdowski at UWS.

### Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection

The Whitlam Institute is also home to the Prime Ministerial Collection of Mr Whitlam's personal papers, books and memorabilia.

## About the School of Economics and Finance at UWS

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The School of Economics and Finance at the University of Western Sydney is comprised of about 40 academic staff covering the disciplines of economics, finance and commercial property investment and valuation. The School teaches across three campuses – Parramatta, Bankstown and Campbelltown – and its classes range from near 2000 students enrolled in first year to a cohort of 40 Ph.D students. A pluralist approach is a key distinguishing feature of teaching and research.

Academic staff have been recognized with the American Real Estate Society Distinguished Service Award, the European Real Estate Society achievement award and membership of World Economic Forum's "Global Agenda Council on the Future of Real Estate". Staff have published books on a range of diverse topics including 'Multinational Business Finance', 'Systematic Risks in Security Pricing and Global Stock Market Integration', 'Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction: The Case Study of Indonesia' and 'The Economics of Rivalry, Conflict and Cooperation'.

# Symposium Background

The symposium explores how the Australian labour market might evolve to deliver a society that is both prosperous and equitable.

It is an opportunity to consider ideas and options for:

- Maintaining a strong labour market within a sustained commitment to full employment
- Expanding the labour market to better utilize those who find it difficult to compete or to secure a place
- Better balancing the imperatives for economic growth and equity

While the recent Jobs for the Future Forum opened aspects of this conversation, there is a need for engaged debate about the long term factors that are driving structural change in our labour market.

Many of the factors that have changed the way we work are well known. They include the impact of new technologies, a decline in demand for entry level workers and the rise of the service sector.

Some of the trends that will shape *future* demand for workers are also known: in the short to medium term the resources sector will drive significant growth; an aging population will generate different job demands as well as changing the dynamics of labour supply; climate change and efforts to address it will impact on the nature and geographic distribution of work.

A future where every Australian has the opportunity to work in a job that meets their needs is a very complex problem, one that is beyond credentials (or skills). Workplace practices and structures can inhibit or develop the workforce we need. If we are to move towards a more skilled and resilient labour force we need to give attention to the process by which people enter the workforce, how they are trained and given experience on the job, and how their attachment to work can be maintained and strengthened over time. We also need to consider how the costs of changing workplace structures/patterns of work should be borne.

Long term change is also occurring on the 'supply side' of the labour equation. That the nature of work has and is changing is unquestionable. But the way we respond and the extent to which we implement strategies to ensure that risks and opportunities are shared across our community is not.

The ***Labour Market Evolution: challenges and options for a 21st century economy*** symposium asks whether a policy focus on overall economic growth and investing in a labour force that is employable is sufficient; or whether it is desirable, and possible, to address the sorts of jobs that will be available (including the type of life that these afford) and how these opportunities will be distributed.

# Program

8:30 am: Registrations open

## **9:00 am – 12 noon: Symposium**

*James Cook Ballroom*

### **9:00 am: Opening and Welcome**

Professor Janice Reid AM, Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Sydney

### **Opening Address:**

**The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, Premier of New South Wales**

### **Sessions**

#### **Session 1:**

The evolving labour market: the trends and challenges

#### **Session 2:**

Full employment, secure work and the growth imperative

*Moderated panel session*

#### **Session 3:**

Labour market possibilities in delivering a place for all

Closing observations

#### **Session 4:**

Symposium wrap-up

### **Speakers and Presenters:**

- Sandra Parker, Deputy Secretary Employment, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Professor Phil Lewis, Director, Centre for Labour Market Research, University of Canberra
- Tim Lyons, Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions
- Professor Phillip O'Neill, Director, Urban Research Centre, University of Western Sydney
- Lisa Fowkes, Consultant working in workforce participation and NFP management

### **12 noon: Lunch and Address:**

**The Hon Mike Rann, former Premier of South Australia and former ALP National President**

*Treasury Room*

2:00 pm: Close

# Registration

by 15 November 2011 to Valerie Wilden at:

Fax: 02 9685 9110  
Phone: 02 9685 9187  
Email: info@whitlam.org  
Post: Whitlam Institute  
Locked Bag 1797  
Penrith NSW 2751

Note: All registrations include the lunch session.

## Corporate Sponsorship

Table of 8 @\$3,000 per table

## Individual registrations

..... (number) Individual registrations @ \$250 per person

Total \$.....

All table and individual registration amounts include GST.

- I am unable to attend the symposium and would like to support the Whitlam Institute by making a tax deductible donation of \$..... (Donations to the Whitlam Institute over \$2 are tax deductible)

## PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF FOR PAYMENT OPTIONS

Please notify us of any dietary requirements.

InterContinental Sydney has special accommodation rates for guests attending the Labour Market Evolution Symposium. Between the dates of 27 November – 2 December 2011 a discounted rate of \$330 per room per night for a Superior City side room is offered, subject to availability at the time of booking. Please contact Lauren Brancourt, Meeting & Events Executive at lauren.brancourt@interconsydney.com to confirm availability.

# Payment Options

- Cheque enclosed payable to  
The Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney
- iPAY – iPAY allows you to pay online by credit card, or by BPay or POST BillPay.  
Please visit our online shopping cart at <http://whitlam.force.com/shoppingCart>
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For receipting and contact purposes please state clearly the following details:

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*For tax information relevant to your circumstances, please seek independent tax advice.*

## Who this symposium is for

- Senior policy makers
- Corporate executives and managers
- Economists
- Leaders in the not-for-profit sector
- Academics

The Whitlam Institute gratefully  
acknowledges the support of



Hawker Britton

## Symposium Venue

InterContinental Sydney

117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

*Symposium: James Cook Ballroom*

*Lunch: Treasury Room*

Whitlam

# Whitlam Institute

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