

Whitlam Institute

WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY

University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life



2010 SYMPOSIUM
Building a 21st Century
Economy to Deliver a
Fair Society

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

Thursday 15 July 2010
InterContinental Sydney

Whitlam

About the Whitlam Institute

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 2010 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. In February we launched, with a number of project partners, a three-year ARC Linkage funded project on Federalism and Australian Schooling and its impact on quality and equity. The Institute is also working with Riverside Theatres to mount a three part series featuring respected speakers dealing with issues of crime and punishment and urban development. The series will be held in conjunction with the Parramatta Macquarie Festival (PARRAMAC 2010).

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

The School of Economics and Finance at the University of Western Sydney is comprised of about 34 academic staff covering the disciplines of economics, finance and commercial property investment and valuation. The School teaches across two campuses – Parramatta and Campbelltown – and its classes range from near 2000 students enrolled in first year to a cohort of 25 Ph.D students. A pluralist approach is a key distinguishing feature of teaching and research.

Academic staff have recently 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". This year 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'.

Building a 21st Century Economy to Deliver a Fair Society Symposium Background

The Global Financial Crisis sparked renewed debate not simply about financial regulation and debt but about economic fundamentals. At the height of the crisis in November 2009 the Whitlam Institute, together with the School of Economics and Finance at the University of Western Sydney (UWS), convened a high level symposium on 'Governing the Economy'. A clear theme running throughout the presentations was the question of economic purpose.

Treasury Secretary, Dr Ken Henry, emphasized that the choices made in a government's budget affect not only economic growth but, more broadly, well being and that well being, across successive governments, was at the heart of Treasury's mission: "In applying this [well being] framework to fiscal policy we have to consider not only the relevance of fiscal sustainability to questions of intergenerational equity, but, more broadly, the impact on the well being of individuals, and society as a whole, of every one of the expenditure and revenue decisions of government".

Former Reserve Bank Governor, Bernie Fraser, put it even more directly when speaking of the economic framework that should govern policy making whether it be monetary or fiscal policy: "The essence of that framework is that the ultimate goal of policy makers is not to maximise growth numbers or minimise inflation numbers but to help create a better, fairer society".

The questions such a framework demands are far from abstract. What is the link between economic purpose and our understanding of what constitutes a fair society? What should the criteria be for economic decision-making? What are the options in establishing the structural settings and the required institutional mechanisms?

The answers to these questions have a direct bearing on markets, tax and preferred regulatory regimes, migration and population policies, education and skills development. The questions, and others besides, warrant serious consideration and debate. They invite new ideas and approaches.

Building a 21st Century Economy to Deliver a Fair Society provides the opportunity to do just that. This half-day symposium gives both current and emerging economic thinkers centre stage drawing upon experienced economists of the highest calibre as discussants. It provides a valuable opportunity for considered and civil but robust discourse on ensuring the economy reflects our determination for a fair society and is capable of meeting the challenges ahead.

The Treasurer The Hon Wayne Swan's lunchtime keynote address and participation confer added significance to this particular occasion.

Program

8:30 am: Registration

9:00 am: Opening and Welcome

John Phillips AM, Chancellor at UWS

9:10 am: Opening Address

Mike Baird, NSW Shadow Treasurer

**9:40 am: Session 1: Economic Purpose & Progress:
Growth, well-being and the quality of life**

- Professor Andrew Leigh, Research School of Economics, ANU
- Dr Nicholas Gruen, CEO, Lateral Economics

10:30 am: Morning Tea

**11:00 am: Session 2: A Stake in the Economy for All:
Delivering a Fair Share**

Moderator:

- Sheryl Bagwell, Business Editor, Radio National Breakfast

Panelists:

- Rob Heferen, Deputy Secretary, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark, Director, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.
- Peter Crone, Chief Economist, Business Council of Australia
- Dr Christopher Joye, Managing Director Rismark International

12:00 noon: Symposium Summary and Observations

Rapporteur:

Tim Harcourt, Chief Economist, Austrade

12:15 pm: Symposium wrap up

12:30 pm: Lunch and Address

The Hon Wayne Swan MP, Treasurer

2:30 pm: Close



Registration

by 1 July 2010 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 @\$5,500 per table

Individual registrations

..... (number) Individual registrations @ \$375 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)

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Payment Options

- Cheque enclosed payable to
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Who this symposium is for

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

Symposium Venue

InterContinental Sydney

117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Symposium: James Cook Ballroom

Lunch: Fort Macquarie Room

Robertson

Whitlam Institute

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