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Newsletter #79

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
April 2021
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Dear friend,

Welcome to our April newsletter. Read on for information about upcoming economics events and activities.

News

WEN NSW Branch

The Women in Economics Network (NSW Branch) recently held their AGM, at which **Alexandra Lobb** stood down as Chair and **Kar Mei Tang** was duly elected. Many thanks to Alexandra for her work over the last 12 months and welcome to Kar Mei. [Read more about the WEN NSW Committee.](#)

The Reserve Bank has launched Unreserved

Unreserved is the online platform to access the Reserve Bank of Australia Archives. Unreserved allows you to directly access digitised copies of selected archival records as well as information about our entire archival collection.

The Reserve Bank is custodian of a rich and varied archive of records that spans nearly 200 years of Australia's economic, financial and social history – from the convict era through to more recent times. This is because the Reserve Bank descended from the original Commonwealth Bank of Australia which had a central banking function and had absorbed other banks with a colonial history.

[Visit Unreserved website](#)

Upcoming Events

We are very excited to bring you this in-person event.

Unpacking the Circular Economy

In this session with three leading economists working in the field, we will unpack just what is meant by the circular economy, what it looks like in Australia and how it interacts with the broader economy. We will also cover issues such as supply chains and financial market impacts, best practice in Australia and abroad, impacts on productivity, barriers to uptake, the role for government(s), implications for planning and how Donut Economics fits into the equation.

Each of our speakers will cover a different aspect of the Circular Economy and there will be a Q and A session at the end. You should come away from this lunch time seminar with a very clear understanding of how the Circular Economy is playing out in both theory and practice.

Speakers



Dr Kar Mei Tang is Chief Circular Economist with NSW Circular. She has held senior executive roles in the NSW Government including as Executive Director, Circular Economy in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Environment Protection Authority, and as Director of Economic Policy in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Prior to joining the NSW public sector she was Head of Policy and Research with the Australian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (now Australian Investment Council). Kar

Mei has a PhD in Economics and a Masters in Applied Statistics. She is the Chair of the NSW Women in Economics Network, and a Sydney Children's Hospitals Network Human Research Ethics Committee Member.



Marc Tutaan is an Associate Director at Deloitte Access Economics where he is the lead director on the circular economy. Over the last 12 years Marc has advised on environmental and economic policy and regulation relating to interconnected aspects of the circular economy spanning energy, water, waste, resource efficiency, infrastructure and climate change. Prior to Deloitte, he worked for the NSW Government on the NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement and the NSW 20-year waste strategy. He holds a Master of Economics and Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws from the

University of Sydney.



Joseph Carpuso has been analysing and forecasting economies and financial markets for more than two decades. Joseph is currently Head of International Economics in the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Global Economic and Market Research team. Joseph and his team are involved in monitoring and forecasting trends in foreign economies, and drawing implications for central banks' policy and currencies. Joseph's team also analyse the economic and financial market impact of ESG issues. Prior to his current role, Joseph was an economist in the Bank's Australian economic research team. Joseph joined the Commonwealth Bank in 2005 from the economic division of the Prime Minister's Department. Prior to

these roles, Joseph was the forecasting economist at specialist economic modellers, Econtech (now part of KPMG). Joseph started his career in Treasury's international and macro-economic divisions. Joseph works in the Institutional Banking & Markets division of the Commonwealth Bank. This division is responsible for managing the Group's relationships with major corporate, institutional and government clients and providing a full range of capital raising, transactional and risk management products and services.

Important - please note - catering is not provided - this is a BYO lunch event!

Upcoming Webinars

WEN Workshop: Writing for digital content

Do you wish you had more opportunities to share your ideas about economics? Is there research you've done, a great book you recently read, or observations about the world you can offer, which could be promoted and shared via social media?

Do you possibly also wish there were more female voices in public discussions and media commentary about economic issues?

The NSW WEN blog series, "Credible Economists", is inviting contributions from women economists and wants to provide our WEN members with the skills and resources to transform your knowledge and insights into great digital content.

On offer to all WEN members nationally, our 'Writing for digital content' online workshop will give you ideas and strategies for writing for social media, so that your digital content can have as big an impact as possible.

This online workshop will provide writing tips from award-winning journalist and speaker **Catherine Fox** and Lecturer in Economics at RMIT University and our National WEN Chair **Leonora Risse**, and include an interactive session to put your skills into action. The workshop will also cover the issue of how to manage potential criticism and hostility in the media, which we know is an issue that disproportionately affects women.

No matter what field you're in, strong writing skills for digital content are critical in the modern age and ensure that you get your point across and engage with audiences. Whether you're sharing your own perspectives and research findings, or writing on behalf of your organisation, your capacity to express your ideas clearly in a digital forum will be an increasingly valuable skill for all economists.

This initiative contributes to WEN's objectives to support the career development of women in economics, and improve the representation of women economists in the media, public discussion, and positions of influence and policy impact. This ultimately contributes towards the goal of creating a more gender balanced, equitable and inclusive economics profession.

Read previous articles in the NSW WEN Blog series [here](#)

Registration and Joining this Workshop

This professional development workshop is available exclusively to WEN members. The workshop will be delivered online via Zoom. Register below - remember to login first. The link to join will be sent to you a day or two prior to the event. The timing of this event is 12.30pm until 2.00pm AEST.

Image credit [Business photo created by freepik - www.freepik.com](#)

Partner Events

Critical Junctures/Critical perspectives – a call for new voices in tax reform

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended societies worldwide. It has exposed the consequences of economic stratification with the poor and marginalised disproportionately bearing the economic impact of the pandemic, the consequences of lockdown responses (such as the shut-down of Melbourne's public housing towers) and the burden of disease. COVID-19 has also been more likely to affect groups at the intersection of economic and social disadvantage. The effects of the pandemic have fallen unequally on women. It has further entrenched gender pay/wealth gaps, with women more likely to have lost their job and to have undertaken additional care. Affected groups also include low-paid migrant workers on the COVID front line; Indigenous people especially vulnerable to COVID due to a higher likelihood of co-morbidities and restricted access to essential services; and LGBTIQ+ individuals who are potentially more vulnerable to COVID-related lockdown measures being statistically more likely to face additional physical and mental health issues.

The pandemic has also exposed the impact of a continued neglect of public institutions and declining investment in public goods – be it with under-resourced and overwhelmed health systems or decimated local supply chains.

In Australia, the bipartisan political response has paired massive government spending with declining revenue (both as a consequence of the pandemic reducing the income and consumption tax base as well as deliberate policy decisions to cut personal income tax rates and introduce tax concessions).

It is likely that the fiscal pressure from these developments will ultimately require fundamental tax reform. That is, the impact of COVID-19 on fiscal systems worldwide is exactly the type of crisis often thought necessary to precipitate major tax reform.

At such a critical juncture, it is essential to open the discussion of tax reform to new voices and new perspectives. The technical subject matter of taxation (and the general public apathy towards this perceived technical detail) means that certain groups and epistemic communities can dominate tax policy formation, development and implementation. This is despite the stakes being so high – taxation is one of the primary means to address wealth and income inequality in a political system that is tied to a market-based economy.

This symposium seeks to open the debate on reform to new voices and new perspectives that are able to challenge the status quo. It invites papers from scholars from all disciplines (for example, law, politics, economics, sociology) to offer critical perspectives on taxation. Topics might include (but are not limited to):

- The role of taxation in addressing wealth and income inequality
- Taxation and gender inequality
- The differential impact of tax policy on marginalised groups such as Indigenous people, migrant and refugee communities and LGBTIQ+ groups
- The role of taxation in addressing environmental issues.

The symposium will be hosted online from Melbourne and be held from **15-16 July 2021**. Eligible participants will be invited to submit their written papers for possible inclusion in a special issue of the *Australian Tax Review* in 2022.

The symposium offers the opportunity for scholars from diverse disciplines to be paired to respond to a common issue. Scholars might choose to do so themselves through submitting a joint abstract or express an interest in being paired with a scholar from

another discipline when they submit their abstract. In the latter case, an effort will be made (subject to constraints) to link scholars whose abstracts are accepted with others who may wish to, and be suitable to, collaborate on the topic. Papers from early career scholars and people from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds are especially welcome to apply. Due to logistical and other considerations, the call for papers is primarily (but not exclusively) directed at participants in Australia and New Zealand.

Enquiries and abstracts of no more than a page should be submitted to kathryn.james@monash.edu. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 7 March 2021.

[READ MORE](#)

Please also keep an eye out for webinar events from other ESA Branches. The Central Council [Calendar](#) has all this information.

Reading and Listening

Catch up on ESA Central Council's National Webinar Program [here](#).

Careers and Graduate Opportunities

Advertising an economics position on the ESA website is a good way to get wide exposure for a role. If you would like to advertise a role on the website, please contact our [administrator](#) for more information. There is a small fee of \$110 inc GST.

Current opportunities are listed below.

Consortium for Inclusive Economics Education

UNSW are accepting applications (CV and EOI) for a secondary-school economics teacher outreach being held at UNSW on Friday 16 April. Follow the links below for further information and apply before 1 April.

<https://www.ciee.unsw.edu.au/events> and [CIEE Flyer](#)

Economist, Researcher, Executive Officer

Blueprint Institute is growing quickly. We are always on the look out for talented and value-aligned individuals who are passionate about public policy. If you are interested in hearing more about upcoming opportunities at Blueprint Institute, please get in touch at admin@blueprintinstitute.org.au

Blueprint Institute is currently looking for the following:

Researcher

An early career professional with 1+ year(s) experience to join our team as a Researcher. The ideal candidate will have a strong economics and/or public policy background (at the Honours or Masters level). Current students will be considered. Professional experience working in a policy setting (e.g., an internship in a policy research institute, the public service, or consulting to the public sector) would be beneficial.

[Read more](#)

Executive Officer

An early to mid-career professional with relevant experience to join our team as an Executive Officer.

The ideal candidate will have experience in event management, or Executive Assistant experience and an interest in public policy. Professional experience working in a policy setting (e.g., a policy research institute, the public service, a political office, or consulting to the public sector) is desirable. Experience liaising with the media is an advantage. For example, we could envisage hiring a driven and outgoing individual, passionate about events and public engagement, who has worked as an events and/or media manager for an organisation that is actively engaged in public policy or as a staffer in a political office.

[Read more](#)

Economist

An early to mid-career professional with 2+ years experience to join our team as an Economist.

The ideal candidate will have strong economics training (at the Honours or Masters level), experience in economics or public policy, and a demonstrated commitment to policy outcomes. Professional experience working in a policy setting (e.g., a policy research institute, the public service, or consulting to the public sector) is a must. For

example, we could envisage hiring a high performer who has worked at Treasury for a couple of years, and is keen for a change of scenery. But many alternative paths could yield a suitable candidate.

[Read more](#)

Graduate Economists, Productivity Commission

Applications for the Productivity Commission's 2022 Graduate program are now open.

We are looking for high calibre economics graduates who are interested in working on a range of challenging public policy issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Positions are available in both our Canberra and Melbourne offices.

Successful applicants will demonstrate an awareness of Australian economic conditions and economic policy and a range of capabilities including applied economic research and analysis, analytical and investigative skills, good communication skills and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

The Commission offers excellent development opportunities. As well as a comprehensive graduate program, our graduates work with some of the best and most experienced policy analysts in the country and have access to both on-the-job and formal training throughout their career.

For further details and to apply, please visit Commission's website at www.pc.gov.au/careers.

Applications close on 5 April 2021 and should be submitted via the Commission's website.

Analysts/Senior Analysts – various Divisions

- Parliamentary Service Level 5/6
- Full-time on-going
- Parliament House, Canberra
- \$77,712-\$85,251 (PSL5) / \$89,311-\$100,329 per annum + attractive employer superannuation

About the Parliamentary Budget Office

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) supports the Parliament by providing independent, authoritative and non-partisan analysis of budgetary issues and the fiscal cost of policy proposals. In light of the current fiscal situation, the PBO is in a unique position to support the Parliament and general public at this critical time through analysis that is timely and relevant.

The PBO's role comprises three main elements, which are to:

- enable fiscal impacts to be considered during policy development by providing policy costing and budget analysis services to all parliamentarians
- improve public understanding of budget and fiscal policy issues by conducting and publishing research in these areas
- enhance transparency around election commitments by preparing a post-election report on the budget impacts of the election commitments of parliamentary parties.

About the roles

The PBO is seeking analysts with an aptitude for policy analysis to work in various branches of the PBO. As an analyst, you will use your skills and experience in economic, financial, budget or statistical analysis to (depending on the branch you are allocated to) assist in the preparation of costings of revenue and expenditure proposals; assist with researching and preparing analyses of the budget and fiscal policy settings; and contribute to the PBO's program of research.

The primary focus of Revenue Analysis Branch and Program Analysis Branch is preparing estimates of the costs of policy proposals for parliamentarians; the primary focus of Fiscal Policy Analysis Division is conducting quantitative analysis and publishing research papers on budget and fiscal policy matters.

Duties

The duties of the position vary across the operational areas. Duties in all operational areas involve quantitative analysis of the budget.

The main duties in Revenue Analysis Branch and Program Analysis Branch include:

- assisting in undertaking costings of revenue and expenditure proposals and drafting related explanatory material
- analysing large datasets utilising tools such as Excel or other statistical or programming packages
- assisting in building and/or adapting models and frameworks to analyse the budget
- contributing to the preparation of PBO reports, including analysing budget and economic data to provide insights into budget and fiscal policy settings
- providing technical expertise and assisting in implementing the PBO's annual work plan

The main duties in Fiscal Policy Analysis Division include:

- being an analyst in a small team to prepare several PBO research reports each year, including running, updating and contributing to the development of models and frameworks

- to analyse the budget
- applying strong written communication skills to the drafting of published reports that are accessible to a wide audience
- analysing large datasets utilising tools such as Excel or other statistical or programming packages
- working across the PBO and with other organisations to obtain data, test the findings of our research and enhance our understanding of the budget
- providing technical expertise and assisting in implementing the PBO's annual work plan.

Contact officer: Liyi Pan (02) 6277 9536 or Liyi.Pan@pbo.gov.au

For further information and how to apply, go to the PBO's recruitment page at https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Employment/Parliamentary_Budget_Office

Applications close Sunday 18 April at 11:30pm AEST

Policy and Program Director - Consumer Wellbeing & Market Stewardship

Consumer Policy Research Centre

For too long consumer markets have been designed by theory, not by practice and real-world experiences. Australia's markets too often fail the people they were meant to serve. We're on a mission to reimagine markets to create a better future for all consumers.

ABOUT US

At Consumer Policy Research Centre (CPRC) - Australia's independent consumer think-tank – we're proud to work closely with policymakers, regulators, academia, industry and the community sector to develop, translate and promote evidence-based insights to inform practice and policy change.

We're committed to doing things differently through our work. We listen to the expectations, hopes and real-life experiences of consumers. We analyse public policy and business practices to identify the gaps, the leading practices, and the opportunities for change, we facilitate conversations to build a stronger shared understanding of the consumer interest, and we develop new ways of thinking and practical solutions that will make a difference.

Our key research streams currently include:

- *Consumers in a digital world*
- *Consumer wellbeing*
- *Building markets that work for people*
- *Consumer empowerment and engagement.*

We're a nimble, collaborative, high-impact team based in Melbourne. We embrace flexible working and value diverse thinking in solving complex policy problems.

ABOUT THE ROLE

We are now looking for a top-notch policy thinkers and doers who can grapple with complex problems, change the debate about the consumer interest, and develop new approaches that will make a tangible difference to consumers' lives.

With significant challenges facing economies and societies, now is the time for market stewards and policymakers to change their approach to the regulation and governance of markets. Internationally, new models and approaches are emerging to build back better in economic recovery, putting people first.

Join us to lead this significant change agenda that places consumers at the centre of reform. You'll be developing and championing a modern, cross-sectoral evidence base to make markets work better for people and improve consumer wellbeing.

Some of the key responsibilities of this position include:

- Working with the CEO, develop and execute the strategy to influence public policy design and business practice change in the area of consumer wellbeing and market stewardship representing CPRC in policy change processes as a credible expert.
- Produce high-quality consumer research, reports, fact sheets and articles to drive change.
- Build a community of change of researchers, industry leaders, leading thinkers and experts across Victoria, Australia and internationally.
- Identify, secure and manage transformational partnerships, including securing project funding.
- Disseminate and communicate CPRC research for public policy impact across a range of mediums, including social media.
- Lead and galvanise teams, partnerships and contracted projects where required

ABOUT YOU

To be successful in this role, you'll:

- Get excited about being a part of a next generation public policy change organisation
- Want to apply your experience in the theory and practice of policymaking
- Share your skills in building movements and communities of change
- Have a passion for - and experience in - producing a solid evidence base to drive policy reform
- Apply your excellent writing and editing skills with a strong track record writing for different audiences
- Value bouncing around ideas and strategizing with other team members with diverse skills and expertise
- Have first-rate time and project management skills and well-developed ability to deal with competing priorities under pressure
- Be proactive, strategic, forward-looking, curious and solutions-focused
- Enjoy dynamic, fast-paced, ideas-rich environments
- Come equipped with qualifications in public policy, regulation, economics, behavioural economics, law, consumer policy, or other demonstrated and relevant applied experience.
- Experience in quantitative and qualitative consumer research /data analysis an advantage.

AND IN RETURN

- Two year fixed term opportunity - Full time
- Flexible working arrangements/hours – we focus on outcomes and embrace flexibility
- Join a passionate and dedicated team embarking on an exciting new journey to champion fresh thinking and create a better future for all consumers
- Access to six free sessions annually via our Employee Assistance Program
- We have office plants (real ones) and often, ginger nut cookies

If you are excited by the opportunity to contribute to the growth and leadership of a forward-looking, innovative for-purpose organisation committed to improving consumer wellbeing, this could be the job for you and we would love to hear from you! Please apply now online or contact careers@fibreh.com.au, using the subject line: **Policy and Program Director - Consumer Wellbeing & Market Stewardship enquiry via EthicalJobs** for more information.

We recognise that we operate in a diverse community and welcome and encourage applications from all ages and genders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, the LGBTIQ+ community, refugees and people with disability.

APPLY NOW

Policy and Program Director - Consumers in a Digital World

Consumer Policy Research Centre

For too long consumer markets have been designed by theory, not by practice and real-world experiences. Australia's markets too often fail the people they were meant to serve. We're on a mission to reimagine markets to create a better future for all consumers.

At Consumer Policy Research Centre (CPRC) - Australia's independent consumer think-tank – we're proud to work closely with policymakers, regulators, academia, industry and the community sector to develop, translate and promote evidence-based insights to inform practice and policy change.

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We're a nimble, collaborative, high-impact team based in Melbourne. We embrace flexible working and value diverse thinking in solving complex policy problems.

ABOUT THE ROLE

We are now looking for top-notch policy thinkers and doers who can grapple with complex problems, change the debate about the consumer interest, and develop new approaches that will make a tangible difference to consumers' lives.

This is a unique opportunity to lead an impactful policy change program in an emerging area of policy development and market governance. Digital transformation is driving unprecedented structural changes in the operation of consumer markets in Australia and globally. As Policy and Program Director (Consumers in a Digital World), you'll have a seat at the policy change table, developing the evidence base, building communities of

change and representing the voice of consumers in policy reform processes.

Some of the key responsibilities of this position include:

- Working with the CEO, develop and execute the strategy to influence public policy design and business practice change in consumer data and digital transformation of markets, representing CPRC in policy change processes as a credible expert.
- Produce high-quality consumer research, reports, fact sheets and articles to drive change.
- Build a community of change of researchers, industry leaders, leading thinkers and experts across Victoria, Australia and internationally.
- Identify, secure and manage transformational partnerships, including securing project funding.
- Disseminate and communicate CPRC research for public policy impact across a range of mediums, including social media.
- Lead and galvanise teams, partnerships and contracted projects where required.

ABOUT YOU

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- Value bouncing around ideas and strategising with other team members with diverse skills and expertise
- Have first-rate time and project management skills and a well-developed ability to deal with competing priorities under pressure
- Be proactive, strategic, forward-looking, curious and solutions-focussed
- Enjoy dynamic, fast-paced, ideas-rich environments
- Come equipped with qualifications in public policy, regulation, economics, behavioural economics, law, data policy, consumer policy, or other demonstrated and relevant applied experience.

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APPLY NOW

Assistant Director - Economist

Job Overview

The Nowcasting and Economic Modelling section is a part of the National Skills Commission, which was established on 1 July 2020 to provide trusted and independent intelligence on Australia's future education, skills and jobs needs. The section is comprised of economists and data scientists who use various techniques, including economic modelling and machine learning, to analyse the labour market drawing on different types of data sources. These sources range from traditional labour market data (such as the ABS Labour Force Survey), to administrative datasets (such as jobactive data) and emerging real-time sources (such as Burning Glass job advertisement data). Recent projects undertaken by the team include:

- modelling of possible labour market recovery scenarios, in partnership with the Centre of Policy Studies using the Victoria University Employment Forecast Computable General Equilibrium model
- development of a weekly employment index for total employment in Australia
- nowcasting occupational employment by region
- developing highly frequent Beveridge Curves to understand changes in labour market efficiency since the onset of COVID-19.

The Nowcasting and Economic Modelling section sits within the NSC's Forecasting Skills and Analysis Branch, which is leading a number of key initiatives, including the flagship Jobs and Education Data Infrastructure (JEDI) project and the development of a data-driven Australian Skills Classification.

The Position

The Nowcasting and Economic Modelling section is currently recruiting for an Assistant Director. This is a newly created position, with the successful candidate to play a leadership role in enhancing the NSC's labour market modelling capabilities in delivering a combination of short-term bespoke projects and longer-term research pieces, in partnership with other NSC staff (including SES) and external experts. This includes taking responsibility for:

- developing and maintaining collaborative working arrangements with other team members and external experts (such as academics and private sector consultants) to design and deliver labour market modelling projects,
- engaging with SES staff to advise on the technical requirements and approaches for modelling projects (including supporting strategic decision making regarding the types of projects to be delivered),
- interrogating and analysing modelling inputs, assumptions and outputs to ensure they are fit-for-purpose for the National Skills Commission, and
- communicating key findings effectively across a range of mediums and audiences, including identifying the skills and labour market implications.

The position requires a highly technical skillset as well as a dynamic mindset in responding to different priorities and changing approaches as necessary. The successful candidate must be comfortable at engaging with senior staff, including to determine the technical requirements and approaches for various projects.

To be successful in this role, you will need:

- Demonstrated capacity to engage with other experts (such as colleagues, academics and private sector consultants) to design and deliver modelling projects, including by developing productive and collaborative working relationships.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with senior stakeholders and both technical and non-technical audiences.
- Experience undertaking or managing modelling projects.
- Proven ability to interrogate modelling inputs and outputs and prepare analysis and advice.
- Ability to build the technical capability and knowledge of other staff members.
- Demonstrated understanding of the Australian labour market and economy, including relevant data sources (e.g. ABS data).
-

Applications close Friday 23 April 2021

[APPLY NOW](#)

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