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Newsletter #44

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
February 2018

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Dear friend,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2018.

Upcoming Events

ABC RN TalkShow

Keep your ears peeled for a new ABC RN talk show program entitled 'The Economists', hosted by Peter Martin and Gigi Foster. The show airs on Thursdays from 5:30-6 PM starting 8 Feb, and aims to apply the lens of economics to... just about anything. Available to listen live or post-show as a podcast. Don't miss their first show, when former Australian Young Economist of the Year Paul Frijters will call in from London to talk with Peter and Gigi about the economics of love.

Be Part of ABC Q&A Audience: Monday 5 February at 8.30 pm ABC's Q&A

Q&A's first discussion of the year will be focused on the economy and there is lots to talk about, particularly with regard to government spending, company tax cuts and capital gains exemptions on the Turnbull government's agenda.

Hosted by Tony Jones, **Q&A** is the show where **YOU** get to ask the questions, taking the issues that matter to you up to our elected representatives and opinion makers and we would like to invite interested members and associates of your organisation to join us.

Those wishing to attend just need to register online here:

<http://www.2b.abc.net.au/AudienceBooking/Client/AudienceRegistration.aspx>

In Q.15 please write **ESA** to be given priority seating.

Latest News

Australia Day Honours

Mr John Eric PIERCE, Concord NSW 2137

For distinguished service to public administration through senior roles in developing regulatory and policy initiatives and micro-economic and energy market reforms, and to the community.

Service includes:

Energy sector:

Chairman, Australian Energy Market Commission, since 2010.

Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, 2009-2010. Former Chief Economist, Pacific Power NSW, 1988-1993.

Former Economist, Electricity Commission of NSW (Elcom).

Chair, Electricity Supply Industry Expert Panel, Review of Tasmania's electricity industry 2010-2012.

Finance:

Secretary, NSW Treasury, 1997-2008 and Chief Economist, 1993-1996. Former Chairman, NSW Treasury Corporation.

Community:

Chairman, St Patrick's College Strathfield, since 2010; Chair, Finance Committee, 2007- 2009; Finance Committee Member, since 2005-2010.

Member, Finance Committee, St Patrick's Church Hill Sydney, current.

Advisory Council Member, Australian School of Business, University of New South Wales, since 2006.

Advisory Board Member, Department of Economics, Macquarie University, since 2013.

President, NSW Branch, Economic Society of Australia, 1996-1999.

There are two polls for you to read this month

Journalism as a public good

2017 was the year that brought us a new startling reality – one in which 'alternative facts' consistently overwhelmed (or trumped?) well-considered, rigorous and evidence-based public discourse. We wanted to kick 2018 off by exploring this 'fake news' phenomenon with the the Economic Society of Australia's [National Economic Panel](#) (NEP). So for our 25th poll, we asked the NEP for their views on the following propositions:

Proposition 1: The modern phenomena of information overload and social-media-fuelled 'fake news' bring into focus the value of quality journalism. Quality journalism has a public-good dimension that warrants public support.

Proposition 2: The Australian government presently provides funding for the ABC and SBS, Australia's independent public broadcasters. The Australian government should increase its financial support of quality journalism.

** **Collaborator credits:** we would like to thank Dr Leonora Risse, Danielle Wood and Associate Professor Gigi Foster for their assistance in framing this poll question. We would also like to thank Associate Professor Gigi Foster for her expert overview of the results.*

[Read the results of this poll](#)

[Read the Overview](#) by Gigi Foster, Associate Professor, University of New South Wales Australia Business School

Same Sex Marriage and Economic Growth

In November, a clear majority of Australians voted 'Yes' in favour of allowing same sex couples to marry. Shortly afterwards - and before a Private Members Bill was tendered in the House of Representatives – we asked the ESA National Economic Panel for their views on the following proposition:

"Assuming that the law will be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry in Australia, this will generate net economic benefits for the nation as a whole over the next 10 years."



[Overview of Poll Results by Professor Fabrizio Carmignani](#)

[Read full Poll Results](#)

Media Coverage on this poll can be read below

[Sydney Morning Herald](#)
[The Age](#)

Collaborator credits: we would like to thank Leonora Risse and Simone Wong for their assistance in framing this poll question and Prof Fabrizio Carmignani for his expert overview of the results.

Got a poll question idea? If you have suggestions for future Polls - on any topic - please let us know by submitting your question ideas [here](#).

EES Lunch with Helen Silver AO

Helen Silver AO is a Chief General Manager at Allianz Australia, with a major role in the oversight and delivery of Workers' Compensation services for Allianz across Australia. Helen has had a long and distinguished career in both public and private sectors including as Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet from 2008 to 2013. Prior to her role as DPC Secretary, Helen had Senior Business roles in the National Australia Bank. Helen's public sector career covered both State and Commonwealth Governments. Helen is a National Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia. Helen is a Director of the MSO and a Trust member of the Arts Centre Trust and a member of the Judicial Commission of Victoria. Helen has a B.Ec (1st class honours) and M.Ec both from Monash University. In 2015 Helen was made an Officer of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to Public Administration; Business and Commerce and the Victorian Community

Partner Events

Outlook for labour, policy and politics

ABE are pleased to present its Forecasting conference - **Outlook for labour, policy and politics**, featuring

- Betsey Stevenson, University of Michigan;
- Luci Ellis, Reserve Bank of Australia;
- Besa Deda, St George Bank;
- Belinda Allen, Commonwealth Bank of Australia;
- Felicity Emmett, ANZ Group,
- Paul Bloxham, HSBC
- and others to be confirmed...

The conference is presented at no charge.

Places are limited. Registration is essential - click [here](#) to register

Please note: AFMA accredited individuals can claim up to a maximum of three hours of continuing education based on their attendance at the conference. Exact hours depend upon relevance to each individual's job role and can be determined by checking with your AFMA accreditation representative.

A light breakfast will be served.

Reading for the Month

Everyday Economics

In this [speech](#) Andrew Haldane, Chief Economist, Bank of England communicates why everyday economics matters to the Bank of England.

Careers

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.

Below are some opportunities to start your new year off.

Senior Researcher – Economics/Tax

Senior Researcher – Economics/Tax

- Parliamentary Executive Level 1
- Parliament House, Canberra ACT
- Closing Date: 11:30pm AEDT, Thursday 15 February 2018

The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) is recruiting for PEL 1 Senior Researchers - Economics/Tax vacancies within the Economics section, Research branch.

Parliamentary researchers support the work of the Parliament by providing high quality and impartial information, analysis and advice to our clients; Members, Senators, their staff, and parliamentary committees. Research positions in the Parliamentary Library are highly valued because of the opportunity they provide to work directly with our clients to inform their representational and parliamentary work.

The work of Senior Researchers is diverse, interesting and challenging. Senior Researchers respond directly to often complex research requests from parliamentarians and parliamentary committees, sometimes within tight deadlines and under limited supervision. A significant part of the work involves writing commentaries on bills (Bills Digests). Researchers may also write publication on matters of interest to Parliament and help prepare range of self-help resources.

The Economics section provides assistance to clients in a wide range of policy areas including taxation, Commonwealth-State financial relations, transport, competition policy, communications, infrastructure, trade, agriculture, resources, regional development and labour markets. Senior researchers typically assume responsibility for particular policy areas but must be willing to take on work in other areas in response to Parliamentary needs, workload or staffing

limitations.

We are looking for a person with relevant tertiary qualifications, knowledge and experience. For one of the positions, expertise in taxation practice and law will be highly regarded, but is not essential.

The successful applicants will have strong research and analytical abilities. They will be able to work directly to clients under limited supervision. They will be able to work in a team and be well informed, motivated, adaptable and able to provide excellent client service. They will be professional, display sound judgement and be sensitive to working in the parliamentary environment. They will be able to write in plain English. They will be able to explain complex matters accurately to experts and non-experts in an appropriate manner, whether in writing, on the phone or in person. They will be able to produce accurate briefs by agreed deadlines. Expertise in Excel and quantitative analysis will be highly valued. Awareness of the political and Parliamentary processes and the workings of government is desirable.

To apply, please go to the Department of Parliamentary Services careers page:

[APPLY NOW](#)

Research Economists

The Productivity Commission is seeking skilled and motivated research economists in our Canberra and Melbourne offices.

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed simply, is to help governments make better policies in the long-term interest of the Australian community.

These positions offer the opportunity to undertake in-depth economic analysis, work on major public inquiries and provide policy advice. The work is wide-ranging with topic areas that vary from year to year, including analysis of market operation and competition, productivity, regulation, economic infrastructure, resources, trade, social issues and the environment.

A merit pool of suitable candidates may be established, and may be used to fill similar vacancies either on an ongoing or non-ongoing basis.

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

Applications close on 11 February 2018 and should be submitted via the Commission's website.

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