

Getting to Grips with the Economy

Public Information Series

I am writing to offer the opportunity to you and your students to attend *Getting to Grips with the Economy*, an exciting series of public forums in Parramatta.

This series offers teachers of contemporary studies, particularly economics, a quite unique opportunity to hear from those who are actually working with the challenges the Australian economy is facing.

The series will provide your students with the chance to hear from Australia's most senior and respected economists and commentators. For senior students it's an opportunity not to be missed, and will bring the Australian economy to life in a way that no text book ever could.

The series will explore the vital issue of the implications of the global economic situation for Australia now and in the future. This is a unique opportunity for your students to hear directly from leaders in the field.

The series is organised by the Whitlam Institute and the University of Western Sydney School of Economics and Finance. There are three sessions in the series - Tuesday 26 May, Thursday 18 June and Thursday 23 July - all held at Riverside Theatres Parramatta from 5-7pm.

We are offering the series to school groups for free entry. Seats however are very limited due to the available theatre space and bookings are essential, so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

The keynote speakers for the series are:

Dr David Gruen, Executive Director, Macroeconomic Group, Australian Treasury

Professor Patricia Apps, Professor of Public Economics and Director of Research, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney

Professor John Quiggin, Federation Fellow in Economics and Political Science, University of Queensland

Other speakers in the series include:

Ross Gittins AM, Economics Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald

Dr Guy Debelle, Assistant Governor (Financial Markets), Reserve Bank of Australia

Professor Bob Gregory AO, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University

Professor Raja Junanker, School of Economics and Finance, University of Western Sydney

Associate Professor Steve Keen from the UWS School of Economics and Finance

The Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney at Parramatta commemorates the life and work of Gough Whitlam and pursues the causes he championed. The Institute bridges the historical legacy of Gough Whitlam's years in public life and the contemporary relevance of the Whitlam Program to public discourse and policy. The Institute exists for all Australians who care about what matters in a fair Australia and aims to improve the quality of life for all Australians.

The Institute is custodian of the Whitlam Prime Ministerial Collection housing selected books and papers donated by Mr Whitlam and providing on-line access to papers held both at the Institute and in the National Archives.

The Whitlam Institute Program has a number of initiatives in its growing portfolio. In 2009 the Whitlam Institute will be finalising the Young People Imagining a New Democracy project, which examines the important question of how and why young people participate in politics. The Whitlam Institute has also recently launched Perspectives -a series of think-pieces by leading public intellectuals, and will soon be publishing a report on the Impact of Government Contracts on Non-Government Organisations.

It is an exciting time to be involved in serious public interest research and policy development which holds the prospect of a more prosperous, democratic and equitable Australia.

I have attached further information about the speakers and each session. For more information please visit our website at www.whitlam.org

To organise your school booking please contact the Whitlam Institute directly on 02 9685 9187. We expect considerable interest in this series so we suggest you book early

We hope you can take up this offer and look forward to welcoming you and your students to the series.

Warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Sidoti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Sidoti
Director, Whitlam Institute