From the Director

Dear friends and colleagues

It's that time of the year again, the 2017 federal budget on Tuesday 9 May. Some tax and transfer measures have already been indicated – and we have discovered, and are still digesting – “good debt” and “bad debt”. But there are always a few surprises on the night. Keep any eye on www.austaxpolicy.com blog for opinion and comment on the budget in coming days.

There are also a couple of excellent events to give you some insights into what is – and is not – in the budget. At lunchtime on Tuesday 16 May, Women in Economics are presenting a National Address on 2017 Budget Reflections at the National Press Club in Canberra, with Professor Miranda Stewart, Professor Rachel Ong of Curtin University and Danielle Wood of the Grattan Institute, moderated by Katherine Murphy. Registration for the event and more information is at the National Press Club website. The Address is also televised live on the ABC 1 and 24 and on Sky News.

In the evening on Tuesday 16 May, ANU is hosting a post-budget Public Forum with Dr Sharon Bessell, Professor John Hewson, Professor Warwick McKibbin and myself. Registration is available here.

We are still accepting paper proposals on corporate tax for our upcoming conference What shall we do with Company Tax? 24-25 July 2017 at Crawford School. Professor Michael Devereux from Oxford University, one of the originators of the US Republican destination cash flow tax proposal, is one of the keynote speakers. Interested authors should submit an abstract of no more than 200 words to tax.policy@anu.edu.au by the extended deadline of Wednesday 31 May. More information is on the conference webpage.

On Austaxpolicy Blog the latest posts address some important and topical questions. The Blog engages in the debate about sugar taxes, with an article by Jonathan Pincus, Grattan Institute’s case for sugar tax is not proven, and a response from the Grattan authors.

In honour of 100 days of Trump, we also present an article by
Professor Roberta Mann on the failure of financing for infrastructure, especially roads, in the United States: Why American infrastructure gets a "D+" and what can be done.

The one-day Executive Education Introductory course at Crawford School on Gender analysis of public policy, will now be offered on Monday 31 July 2017, 9.30-4.30pm, led by Professor Miranda Stewart with Dr Monica Costa. More details are available here. Other Executive Education courses are available on demand including courses on federalism and tax reform, and tax policy.

To keep up with the blog, sign up to the Austaxpolicy newsletter or follow us on Twitter @Austaxpolicy.

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