



Australian  
National  
University



TAX AND TRANSFER POLICY INSTITUTE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Crawford School of  
Public Policy  
ANU College of  
Asia and the Pacific

# TAX AND TRANSFER POLICY INSTITUTE

## ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

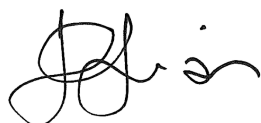
Certification by the Director of Crawford School

I hereby certify that the information provided to the Department of Treasury by ANU in:

- > the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute's Annual Report
- > the performance data and information
- > the financial tables

provides a true and fair view of the matters reported on therein.

I certify that the Commonwealth funding contributions were applied for the activities of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute as specified in the Funding Agreement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Sullivan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Professor Helen Sullivan**  
Director, Crawford School of Public Policy

21 September 2017

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## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016-2017

**30**

Events

**23,588**

TTPI blog visits

**17**

Master and other  
courses

**11**

Working papers  
and policy briefs

**70**

Blog articles

**63**

Publications

**\$798,876**

New grants

**9,997**

Blog visitors

**100**

Articles and  
comments in  
national media

# FROM THE CHAIR



The original ‘hope’ of those who established the TTPI was that government would initiate genuine, broad-based, reform of our tax and transfer system. Not only has this not happened, but the challenge of reform has been made more difficult by various ad hoc initiatives, for example, in the tax area, with a ‘bank tax’, a ‘foreign workers tax’, an increase in the Medicare levy, and so on.

Nevertheless, the TTPI has pushed ahead attempting to raise the key policy issues in various, and very successful, forums, and in terms of the focus of our research. These are detailed in this report and in Miranda Stewart’s comment.

We are very keen to now challenge our political and policy masters, both state and federal. We are initiating a research and public information campaign to carefully assess the key elements of a broad-based reform agenda, and to propose a reform ‘package’ that not only responds to the many and varied pressures and challenges with our current tax/transfer system, but also would seek to set a path forward for our economy over the next several decades.

Pressures are mounting for genuine reform – the imperative of budget repair, in the context of significant medium term spending commitments in schools, hospitals, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and defence; questions about the sustainability of the corporate tax base in the context of global profit shifting and the global push to lower corporate tax rates; the rate, base, and distribution of the GST; the reliance on bracket creep; and the size and distribution of tax expenditures.

Unfortunately, in today’s politics that is so short-term, populous, opportunistic, and mostly negative, the initiation of genuine reform requires leadership and mature debate. It is important that the evidence be marshaled authoritatively as the basis for proper policy development and implementation. This will be our focus in coming years.

## **Professor John Hewson AM**

Chair, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute



# FROM THE DIRECTOR



The year 2016-2017 has been a year of growth, achieving new milestones in research and education combined with outstanding visitors, events and public impact. In our third full year of operation, we have raised significant external research funding for research projects on behaviour and tax debt and on multinational taxation and base erosion. These empirical projects strengthen our research partnership with the Australian Taxation Office and our cooperation with other regulators. They enable us to build our research team, while the external funding is a vote of confidence in our approach that aims to combine credible empirical research with theory and policy thinking.

Visitors to TTPI in 2016-2017 included leaders of outstanding international tax research institutes: Professor Wolfgang Schön, Max Planck Institute of Tax Law and Public Finance, Germany, and Professor Judith Freedman, Director of the law program in the Oxford Centre for Business Taxation at the University of Oxford. We have also welcomed many other visitors from around Australia and internationally including Dr Vito Tanzi, former Head of Fiscal Affairs at the International Monetary Fund.

A major focus of our research program in 2016-2017 was corporate tax. This was a hot topic of public and policy debate in Australia and around the world. We held three major public events and an invitation workshop about modelling company tax reform. We have worked closely with the Social Policy Institute and external partners at Jobs Australia and the Department of Social Services on important issues in tax and social security. Our distinguished international visitor Professor Jane Millar of the University of Bath presented qualitative longitudinal research into single parents and their families. We also carried out significant work on behavioural insights and tax debt, including the successful completion of randomised controlled trials and the use of tax administrative data to understand behaviour in the tax system.

TTPI staff and fellows have made significant contributions to education in the Master of Public Policy at Crawford School. We contributed to the programs development of the new curriculum which will, for the first time, include a specialisation in Public Finance from 2018. We also delivered executive education on tax policy and on gender analysis of public policy.

TTPI researchers have continued to have an outstanding impact on public debates through public speaking, policy advice, academic conferences, the media and policy including the National Press Club and QandA. On the Austaxpolicy blog, our growing network of Australian and international contributors have influenced debate on issues ranging from superannuation tax reform, and oil and gas taxation, to who benefits from a corporate tax cut and even a design-your-own GST reform, in more than 70 articles viewed by nearly 10,000 blog visits during the year. On Twitter, @austaxpolicy has had a big impact with impressions during Budget Forum 2017 exceeding 40,000.

We look forward to expanding our activities in all these areas in 2017-2018.

## **Professor Miranda Stewart**

Director, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute

# ABOUT THE TAX AND TRANSFER POLICY INSTITUTE

The Tax and Transfer Policy Institute (TTPI) carries out research on tax and transfer policy, law and administration for public benefit. The research of TTPI focuses on key themes of economic prosperity, social equity and system resilience. Responding to the need to adapt Australia's tax and transfer system to meet contemporary challenges, TTPI delivers policy-relevant research and seeks to inform and influence public debate on tax and transfers in Australia, the region and the world.

TTPI aims to foster a richness and diversity in tax and transfer research in Australia and internationally for the short and long term, exploring issues and solutions to some of the critical tax and transfer policy challenges facing governments over the next few decades. TTPI does not exist to offer a single perspective on tax and transfer policy.

TTPI undertakes the following main activities:

- > **Research** – empirical and theoretical research and policy analysis aimed at enhancing the evidence base for tax and transfer policy
- > **Engagement** – with research and policy communities and the wider public
- > **Education** – through developing excellent research-led teaching and research supervision

The priorities of TTPI for the 2017-2018 year are to:

- > strengthen our research capability and projects especially through engaging networks of researchers in Australia and internationally, to contribute new excellent research in key areas for tax and transfer policy
- > expand our program of empirical research to take advantage of new data and modelling capabilities, including the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods distributional model, PolicyMod and the Australian Taxation Office longitudinal data panel, while continuing our existing trials and administrative data analysis.
- > increase our influence on public debate about Australia's tax and transfer system through upgrading our social media and blog platforms and policy, analysis, and promote needed tax reform.
- > continue to deliver excellent graduate and executive education, workshops and secondments so as to build research and policy capacity across a range of disciplines.

## Governance

TTPI was established in 2013 with a federal endowment and is supported by the Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University (ANU).

TTPI operates as an Organised Research Unit in the Crawford School of Public Policy, College of Asia and the Pacific at The Australian National University. TTPI is therefore subject to formal governance and financial accounting arrangements of the Crawford School. The Director of TTPI reports to the Crawford School Director, Professor Helen Sullivan, and through the Director, to Professor Michael Wesley, Dean of the College of Asia and the Pacific.

## Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of TTPI includes senior representatives from stakeholder government agencies. It is chaired by Professor John Hewson and met quarterly in 2016-2017. It is a key role of TTPI to carry out and communicate policy-relevant research on taxes and transfers that is of value to government. We are grateful for the advice and insight on research and policy direction, business strategy and engagement from members of the Board this year.

The members of the Advisory Board are:

- Chair, Professor John Hewson AO, ANU
- Director, Professor Miranda Stewart, ANU
- Ms Maryanne Mrakovcic, Deputy Secretary, Revenue Group, Treasury
- Ms Serena Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Social Policy, Department of Social Services
- Mr Mike Lawson, Deputy Secretary, Department of Industry
- Mr Rob Heferen, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy and Environment
- Mr Andrew Mills, Second Commissioner, Law Design, Australian Taxation Office
- Mr Greg Smith, Chair, Commonwealth Grants Commission
- Professor Bruce Chapman, ANU
- Professor Peter Whiteford, ANU
- Professor Robert Breunig, ANU
- Associate Professor Mathias Sinning, ANU



## Finances

TTPI was established with an endowment from the Treasury and with contributions from the College of Asia and the Pacific, the HC Coombs Policy Forum, the Australian National Institute of Public Policy and Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. The establishment of TTPI implemented Recommendation 134 of the Review of Australia's Future Tax System (2009).

The annual Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 is attached at the end of this Annual Report.

In addition to the endowment funding and investment income, in 2016-2017 TTPI raised more than \$700,000 in external funding including through Linkage and Discovery grants from the Australian Research Council, as well as the Asia Pacific Innovation Program at the Australian National University to fund specific activities or research projects. TTPI also earned income from executive education and commissioned research.



*JG Crawford Building*

# PEOPLE

## Academic staff



**Professor Miranda Stewart, Director**

Twitter @AusTaxProf (1835 followers)

Miranda Stewart researches taxation, transfer and budget law and policy. She has 25 years' experience working at the leading edge of policy research, design and development. Miranda

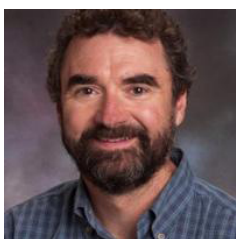
holds a joint appointment with the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy and the University of Melbourne Law School. Current research projects include gender inequality in the tax and transfer system, retirement income taxation, international tax reform and company tax. Miranda has previously worked at New York University School of Law in the United States, in major Australian law firms advising business on tax law, at the Australian Taxation Office, and has consulted for the government.



**Professor John Hewson AM, Chair**

John Hewson is an economic and financial expert with experience in academia, business, government, media and the financial system. He has worked as an economist for the Australian Treasury, the Reserve

Bank, the International Monetary Fund and as an advisor to two successive federal treasurers and the Prime Minister. John was Shadow Finance Minister, Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Industry and Commerce, then Leader of the Liberal Party and Federal Coalition in Opposition for four years. John has been a Founding Executive Director of Macquarie Bank, Chairman of ABN Amro Australia, and Chairman/Director of a host of public and private companies across a range of industries. John writes and comments widely across all media.



**Professor Robert Breunig**

Robert Breunig is a Professor of Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy. Robert conducts research in three main areas: economics of the household; empirical industrial organisation; and statistical and econometric theory. Robert works regularly with

the Australian Treasury and the Departments of Education, Employment and Innovation, and has received grant support from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Australian Research Council.



**Professor Bruce Chapman AM**

Bruce Chapman is a Professor of Economics at the Research School of Economics, ANU. Bruce has extensive experience in public policy, including the motivation and design of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (the first national income

contingent loan scheme using the income tax system for collection). Bruce was elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia in 1993, received an Order of Australia in 2003 for contributions to economic policy, and was named as the 2015 Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia.



**Professor Peter Whiteford**

Twitter @WhitefordPeter (3,250 followers)

Peter Whiteford is a Professor and Director of the Social Policy Institute at the Crawford School of Public Policy. Peter has previously worked at the Social Policy Research Centre at the

University of New South Wales and at the OECD in Paris. Peter is an Associate Investigator with the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research, an Adjunct Professor with the Social Policy Research Centre and an Honorary Professor in the School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Nanjing University, China.



**Associate Professor Mathias Sinning**

Mathias Sinning is an empirical economist at the Crawford School of Public Policy. Mathias previously held academic appointments at the University of Queensland and the Research School of Economics at

ANU, and has been a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University. Mathias is interested in the application of econometric methods to issues related to labor economics and public economics, and is currently working on the project 'Understanding Dynamic Aspects of Economic Inequality' funded by the Australian Research Council. Mathias is a Research Fellow of IZA Bonn, RWI Essen, and the CReAM Centre at University College London.

## Research fellows



### Dr Monica Costa

Monica Costa has a PhD from the University of South Australia. Monica is a gender and development researcher with a particular focus on the application of gender responsive budgeting. Monica has published widely in leading journals and has

worked on gender issues in Portugal, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Indonesia. In 2008, Monica was an adviser to the Timor Leste Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality. Monica's new book, *Gender Budgeting in Fragile States* is forthcoming (2018, Routledge).



### Dr Huong Dinh

Huong Dinh is a Research Fellow at TTPI and in the School of Public Health at The Australian National University. Huong completed her PhD in economics and possesses strong analytical, econometric and microsimulation modelling skills. Her

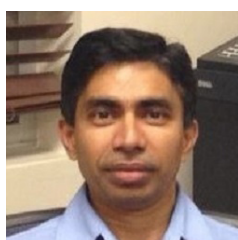
research seeks to reveal how structural factors (e.g. international trade, climate change, the personal income taxation and transfer system, and labour markets) have socio-economic impacts on communities, industries, households and individuals.



### Dr Christian Gillitzer

Christian Gillitzer joined TTPI as a Postdoctoral Fellow from his previous role as a senior economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia. Christian is currently working on the project 'Applying Behavioural Insights to the Tax System in Australia'. Christian's

public finance-related research has covered topics including state fiscal capacity, optimal taxation and reporting behaviour of charitable tax deductions, and he holds a PhD in economics from the University of Michigan and a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University.



### Dr Syed Hasan

Syed Hasan is a Research Fellow and an empirical researcher at the Crawford School of Public Policy. Syed received his PhD from ANU in 2014 and is interested in studying issues related to development economics and public economics, with a particular focus on household consumption. Syed is

currently undertaking work related to GST reform in Australia as part of the research project 'Understanding Dynamic Aspects of Economic Inequality' funded by the Australian Research Council.



### Dr David Ingles

David Ingles is a Senior Research Fellow with TTPI. David has a PhD in public policy from ANU (BEc and MEc (Sydney University)) and specialises in public finance with a particular emphasis on tax and social security. He has worked in various

Commonwealth and state Departments (QLD), including the Department of Social Security (later Department of Social Services), the Treasury and the Economic Planning Advisory Council. In the early 1980s he was an advisor to ministers in the Hawke Government. He previously worked part-time for the Australia Institute, specialising in tax and superannuation reform.

## Research assistants

Mr Shan Verne Liew

Ms Emily Millane

Ms Shuchita Pota

Dr Richard Reid

Dr Marija Taflaga

Mr Steven Thomas

Mr Teck Chi Wong

### Senior Project Officer

Diane Paul is a Senior Project Officer with TTPI. Diane has been employed with the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific since 2010, commencing her career with the College finance department, and then as the Executive Assistant to the College General Manager. Diane administers the Institute's activities and projects.



## Australian Tax Office research secondment

TTPI values our partnership with the Australian Taxation Office under which mid-level executives spend time at TTPI, funded by the ATO, under supervision of a senior academic, to carry out a collaborative research project selected in a competitive process. Between October 2016 and April 2017, we hosted Mr Chris Leech. The program has been opened for applications for 2017-2018.



**Chris Leech** is a Director of Tax Crime Reform at the ATO. Chris has worked for the ATO since 2005, primarily in litigation, legal and technical advice in relation to serious tax evasion. In recent years his focus has been on pursuing reform (administrative and legal) to protect Australia's tax system from abuse.

Prior to joining the ATO, Chris graduated from Monash University with a BA/LLB (Honours). His research project at TTPI is to investigate the effectiveness of financial penalties for tax crime.

Past ATO and Treasury secondees included:

- > Melissa Ogiers (2015-16), *Mind the Gap – The arm's length principle and MNE value creation*, published working paper and presented at ATO, 22 July 2016.
- > Thomas Abhayaratna (2015-16), *A longitudinal panel data set for the ATO*
- > Andre Moore (2014-15), *A stocktake of the tax system and directions for reform*

## Honorary research fellows

TTPI welcomed honorary visiting fellows from academic, public and private sectors to carry out research with TTPI.

**Trevor Breusch** was Professor of Econometrics and formerly Director of the Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. Trevor is researching tax and the shadow economy.

**Joel Emery** graduated from the College of Law at The Australian National University and after being a research assistant at TTPI, took up a position at Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Joel is researching the digital and sharing economy and cryptocurrencies.

**Jim Killaly** is a former Deputy Commissioner (Large Business and International) in the Australian Taxation Office and is carrying out systemic research into the corporate and international tax base. Jim was a recipient of the Public Service Medal in 2005 for his services in developing and implementing a compliance tax framework for large business.

## International visitors

We were privileged to host some outstanding visitors to TTPI in 2016-2017, including leading scholars on tax and social policy. We are always delighted when researchers, doctoral candidates and government visitors from around the world present in our TTPI research seminar series or participate in our conferences and other events at TTPI.



### Professor Neil H Buchanan

Neil Buchanan teaches tax law and policy at The George Washington University in Washington DC. An economist and a legal scholar, Neil visited us from his role as a Visiting Fellow with the School of Taxation and Business Law at the University of

New South Wales in February 2017. Neil's research focuses on intergenerational aspects of policy questions, especially issues relating to government spending, taxation, and borrowing. He is currently working on a book, *What do we owe future generations?*, in which he broadens the focus beyond economic issues to encompass constitutional, environmental and related questions of justice between generations. Neil presented a TTPI research seminar, **Retirement security issues in Australia and the United States**.



### Professor Judith Freedman

Judith Freedman is Professor of Taxation Law at Oxford University and a Fellow of Worcester College. Judith was awarded a CBE in 2013 for services to tax research and appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation in 2015. Judith is

a leading expert on corporate and business taxation, corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, the interaction between law and accounting and small businesses. Judith was the keynote speaker at a public event, **Global corporate tax: anti-abuse, transparency and co-operative compliance**.



### Professor Jane Millar

Jane Millar is Professor of Social Policy at the University of Bath, United Kingdom, with research interests in social security and family policy, lone parents, employment and poverty. Jane studied social psychology at the University of Sussex and worked

in health and social care before returning to academic study to focus on social security policy and was a researcher in the Department of Health and Social Security, and then completed her doctorate in social policy at the University of York. Jane visited TTPI in February 2017 funded by the Asia-Pacific Innovation Program of the College of Asia and the Pacific. Jane

presented a public lecture on **21st Century welfare and the working poor** as well as participating in an invitation workshop on **Change, choice and constraint: qualitative longitudinal research**, in partnership with Jobs Australia and the Social Policy Institute.

#### Dr Jack Mintz



Jack Mintz is the President's Fellow at the University of Calgary School of Public Policy, Canada, focusing on tax, urban and financial market regulatory policy programs. From 2006 to 2015, Jack served as the Director and Palmer Chair in Public Policy for the

University of Calgary, commencing his Chair position on January 1, 2008. Jack has also been a Professor of Business Economics at the Joseph L Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. Jack visited TTPI in March 2017 to present in partnership with the Minerals Council of Australia, **On tax policy, how will the world get Trumped?** Jack also participated in an invitation roundtable on the economic modelling of company tax.

#### Professor Wolfgang Schön



Wolfgang Schön is the Director of the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance in Munich, Germany and is a leading international tax scholar who has published extensively on international and business taxation. Wolfgang has been a Visiting

Professor at New York University and Columbia University and in 2011 gave the Ross Parsons Address at the University of Sydney. Wolfgang visited TTPI in December 2016 to present on **The future of corporate tax**, about trends in company tax reform in Europe and the United Kingdom, in the context of the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project and various new conceptual approaches for redesign of company tax for the future.

#### Dr Vito Tanzi



Vito Tanzi obtained his PhD in Economics from Harvard University and was subsequently a Professor at American University before becoming head of Tax Policy in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 1974 to 1981, and Director of the IMF's

Fiscal Affairs Department from 1981 to 2000. Vito was State Secretary for Economy and Finance in the Italian Government and Senior Consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank. He is a recipient of numerous awards and honours and has published widely on public finance, tax, expenditure and regulation for developed and developing countries. Vito visited TTPI in April 2017 to present at a public seminar on **Complexity**

in governments and markets co-hosted by TTPI with the Development Policy Centre at Crawford School, followed by a conversation with leading scholars on complexity and inequality.

#### Ms Katja Fels



Katja Fels is a researcher and consultant for economic policy communication at RWI-Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, one of Germany's leading institutes for independent economic research and evidence-based policy advice.

Katja holds a Graduate Diploma in Economic Policy from ANU and a Masters degree in Journalism and Political Science from Dortmund University and Bochum University, Germany. Katja's research focuses on evaluating the application of behavioural insights to various policy domains, among them taxation, energy conservation and education. Katja visited TTPI for two months in 2016 to work with Associate Professor Mathias Sinning on behavioural insights applied to policy.

#### Dr Tereza Rogic-Lugaric



Tereza Rogic-Lugaric is an Associate Professor at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, and visited TTPI as an Endeavour Fellow, Australian National University, from February to November 2016. Tereza researched comparative tax compliance and presented a

seminar on her comparative voluntary compliance research at the Australian Taxation Office in November 2016.

### Australian visiting fellows

In 2016-2017, TTPI hosted two funded Australian Visiting Fellows under our Award scheme which enables visiting researchers to carry out research on a tax or transfer topic, present a seminar on their research and engage with policy makers and administrators in Canberra and with projects and activities at TTPI.

#### Mr Peter Mellor



Peter Mellor is a researcher on taxation and fiscal federalism in the Department of Business Law and Taxation of the Monash Business School. He is currently completing a PhD at Monash University under the supervision of Professor Rick Krever and Dr Kathryn

James. Peter has also assisted in the editing of a number of books including *Australia's Future Tax System: The Prospects After Henry* (Thomson, 2010) and *Australian Business Tax Reform in Retrospect and Prospect* (Thomson, 2009). Peter previously worked as a solicitor in indirect taxation in Melbourne and Sydney in the lead-up to the introduction of the GST in

Australia in 2000. Peter visited TTPI in November 2016 and gave a seminar on the topic, **Income taxation by states in a federation: allocation of business income.**



#### **Professor John Taylor**

John Taylor is a Professor in the School of Taxation and Business Law in the Business School at the University of New South Wales. John's main areas of research have been: capital gains tax; corporate taxation; international tax; taxation treaties;

and tax simplification. John has been a contributing author to all editions of Understanding Taxation Law (Lexis Nexis, between 2002 and 2017). His sole authored book, *Capital Gains Tax: Business Assets and Entities* was cited by the High Court of Australia in *FCT v Murry* (1998) 193 CLR 605. John was the Inaugural Honorary Research Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia and in that capacity was the principal author of *Beyond 4100: A report on measures to combat rising compliance costs through reducing tax law complexity*, Taxation Institute of Australia, 2006. From 2006 to 2007 John was a consultant to the Australian Treasury on specific anti-avoidance provisions in income tax. John visited TTPI in February 2017.

## **ANU fellows**

TTPI benefits from a network of ANU Fellows who conduct research on public finance, tax and transfer theory, data and policy issues across The Australian National University.

#### **Professor Adriyanto Adriyanto**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School

#### **Dr Nicholas Biddle**

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, AUSCEN

#### **Professor Alison Booth**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Crawford School

#### **Professor John Braithwaite**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, RegNet

#### **Professor Valerie Braithwaite**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, RegNet

#### **Mr Rob Bray**

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

#### **Dr Paul Burke**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School

#### **Professor Peter Drahos**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, RegNet

#### **Dr Tracy B Fenwick**

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, Centre for Federalism

#### **Professor Matthew Gray**

ANU College of Arts and Social Science, AUSCEN

#### **Professor Bob Gregory**

ANU Research School of Economics

#### **Dr Mark Harrison**

ANU College of Business and Economics

#### **Dr Timo Henckel**

ANU Research School of Economics

#### **Professor Raghendra Jha**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School

#### **Dr Michael Kobetsky**

ANU College of Law

#### **Mr Chris Murphy**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School

#### **Professor Peter McDonald**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Crawford School

#### **Ms Agnieszka Nelson**

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

#### **Mr Benjamin Phillips**

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

#### **Associate Professor Maria Racionero**

ANU Research School of Economics

#### **Dr Julie Smith**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, RegNet

#### **Professor David Stanton**

ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Crawford School

#### **Professor Peter Sutherland**

ANU College of Law

#### **Mr Matthew Taylor**

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

#### **Associate Professor and Reader Dr Alfred Tran**

ANU College of Business and Economics

#### **Dr Chung Tran**

ANU College of Business and Economics

#### **Professor John Wanna**

The Australia and New Zealand School of Government



## PhD students

PhD students at Crawford School and across the ANU are researching diverse tax and transfer topics. Some have contributed substantially to build the work and profile of the TTPI as students and as research students or fellows. A significant number hold the most prestigious PhD Scholarship of the federal government and ANU, the *Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholarship*.

- > **Paul Amores**, 'The role of mental health in transmission of intergenerational disadvantage in Australia' (Crawford primary supervisor Robert Breunig)
- > **Song Borui**, 'The distributive logic of sub-provincial transfers: Is it targeted at equalisation?' (CASS, primary supervisor Tracy Beck Fenwick)
- > **Andrew Carter**, 'Responses to the tax system' (Crawford primary supervisor Robert Breunig)
- > **Timothy Crotty**, 'Higher education regimes: Mobility versus stratification; Universities and opportunities in a time of growing inequalities' (Crawford primary supervisor Peter Whiteford)
- > **Nathan Deutscher**, 'Intergenerational mobility in Australia' (Crawford primary supervisor Robert Breunig, *Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholar*)
- > **Owen Freestone**, 'Australia's social security system and its impact on individuals and the economy' (Crawford primary supervisor Robert Breunig, *Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholar*)
- > **Christopher Hoy**, 'Inequality and redistribution in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea' (Crawford primary supervisor Stephen Howes)
- > **Wendy Heatley**, 'Integrating the Australian tax-transfer system: Fair, efficient, sustainable?' (Crawford supervisors Peter Whiteford and Miranda Stewart)
- > **Shane Johnson**, 'Examining taxpayers' understanding of, and responses to, the Australian personal income tax system' (Crawford primary supervisor Robert Breunig, *Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholar*)
- > **Katy Jones**, 'Indigenous primary school attendance and welfare conditionality' (CAEPR, CASS, primary supervisor Matthew Gray, *Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholar*)
- > **Estelle Li**, 'The impact of foreign ownership and foreign operations on corporate tax strategies in the Australian dividend imputation system' (CBE, primary supervisor Alfred Tran)
- > **Tess McGirr**, 'Social services, tax, transfers and employment' (Crawford primary supervisor Peter Whiteford, *Sir Roland Wilson Foundation Scholar*)
- > **Emily Millane**, 'The Politics of Superannuation Policy' (Crawford primary supervisor Miranda Stewart)
- > **Daniel Nethery**, 'Migrants and the welfare state' (Crawford primary supervisor Peter Whiteford)
- > **Arnaldo Purdo**, 'Base erosion and profit shifting in Indonesia' (CBE, primary supervisor Alfred Tran)
- > **Christine Yao**, 'Tax base erosion of multinational enterprises in Australia' (CBE, primary supervisor Alfred Tran)
- > **Nguyen Thuong**, 'Assessing the dynamism of the informal sector in Viet Nam: a pillar of development?' (Crawford primary supervisor Peter Whiteford)
- > **Leana Ugrinovska-Ugrica**, 'Profit contingent loans for R & D financing' (Crawford primary supervisor Bruce Chapman)
- > **Peter Varela**, 'Examining the distributional trade-offs within Australia's tax and transfer system' (RSE, primary supervisor Maria Racionero)
- > **Sebastian Wende**, 'Dynamic comparative tax analysis' (RSE, primary supervisor Chung Tran)
- > **Eunsup Yang**, 'Essays in the economics of education: Empirical applications to South Korea' (Crawford, primary supervisor Bruce Chapman)

# RESEARCH

TTPI takes a broad and multi-disciplinary approach to research. We aim to build a strong empirical base in public finance, tax and transfer (welfare) fields and to conduct policy-relevant research into theory and policy in the field. While tax and transfer issues are constantly debated in public discourse, the program aims to have a balance of projects with short-term and longer-term time horizons and both academic and policy-orientated outputs. Research is published in our Working Paper series, research reports, academic conference proceedings, leading refereed journals and books in Australia and internationally, short articles on the *Austaxpolicy* blog, and other media such as *The Conversation*, and in op-eds.

TTPI has four research streams, each encompassing a number of projects:

- > **Tax-transfer system, inequality and life course wellbeing**
- > **Tax system behaviour, compliance and administration**
- > **Taxation of capital and business**
- > **Budgets and fiscal federalism.**

Cross-cutting themes in all the TTPI research projects are:

- > Taxes for economic prosperity (efficiency and national wellbeing)
- > Fairness (justice) and redistribution in the tax and transfer system
- > Resilience (administration, simplicity, sustainability in the real world).

In 2017-2018 we aim to deepen our research into specific projects within the four main work streams established in the TTPI research program and to produce research outputs of excellent quality and high impact in Australia, the region and among international academic circles. We will seek to build targeted capacity by obtaining research and external funding on high priority projects that can bring new research to bear on public policy, especially on topics of: fiscal sustainability; tax system behaviour; design of tax-transfer system interaction and the future of savings and capital taxation.

TTPI researchers provide academic leadership in a range of national and international forums including the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia and the Permanent Scientific Committee of the International Fiscal Association (Netherlands).

## Grants

TTPI works actively to apply for external research funding. In 2016-2017, TTPI was successful in raising more than \$770,000 in grants to fund three new research projects over the period 2017 to 2019.

### **Applying behavioural insights to the tax system in Australia (2017-2018)**

Australian Research Council Linkage Project LP160100810 (\$217,000); Australian Taxation Office, (\$128,263). This two year linkage project is led by Chief Investigator Miranda Stewart, with Nicholas Biddle, Robert Breunig and Mathias Sinning, with the Australian Taxation Office. The project commenced in 2017 and Dr Christian Gillitzer and Dr Xue Dong are also researchers on the project.

### **Are tax base erosion and profit shifting counter measures effective? (2017-2019)**

Australian Research Council Discovery Project DP170104244 (\$391,500). This three year Discovery project led by Chief Investigator Alfred Tran, with Miranda Stewart, commenced in 2017. It aims to develop indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of measures to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises. We welcomed Ms Christine Yao as a PhD student on this project.

### **New approaches to tax and welfare in Australia and Korea (2017-2018)**

Australia-Korea Foundation, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (\$40,000). This project is a collaboration between TTPI and partners at the University of Seoul and the Korea Institute of Public Finance. It aims to build a network of researchers on tax, public finance and welfare issues in Australia and Korea and to share knowledge and new research approaches on shared challenges, including designing resilient tax systems for a digital global economy; social policy for intergenerational equity including retirement and higher education; and tax and welfare design for gender equality and work participation.

### **A gender budget framework for breastfeeding**

Julie Smith, Miranda Stewart and Monica Costa obtained \$14,613 to develop and trial a gender budget framework for breastfeeding to advance maternal and child health and gender equality, to hold a workshop with representatives from the United Nations and iBAN, Asia Pacific Innovation Program, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU.

### **New Approaches to Social Policy**

Miranda Stewart and Peter Whiteford obtained \$7,500 to bring Distinguished International Visitor Professor Jane Millar from the University of Bath to Crawford School for an extended visit including a public seminar, research workshop, DSS presentation and engagement with PhD students, as part of the Asia Pacific Innovation Program, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU.

## **Tax-transfer system, inequality and life course wellbeing**

### **Economic inequality**

Several projects are underway on the tax-transfer system, inequality and lifecourse wellbeing. Mathias Sinning is Chief Investigator of an ARC Discovery Project (DP150104247) on dynamic aspects of economic inequality, working with

Syed Hasan. The project examines changes in labour and housing market conditions, and ascertains the factors that are responsible for the rise in income and wealth inequality in Australia and internationally, with implications for the design of tax and welfare systems.

Peter Whiteford is engaged on research into the cost of the welfare state, inequality, taxes and transfers, including in a major series of articles on the myth of zero net taxpayers, comparing Australia's social security system with the systems of comparable countries. He has also carried out commissioned research, including for the OECD, on inequality and inclusive growth and on social security and the future of work, including the role of basic income in a future welfare state. David Ingles commenced a research project on universal basic income, a hot topic on which Peter Whiteford also contributed.

Miranda Stewart led a research project on gender equality and Australia's tax and transfer system, including leading scholars across disciplines from around the country. The edited book, *Tax, Social Policy and Gender: Rethinking Equality and Efficiency* (ANU Press) will be published in 2017. The book examines multiple dimensions of the gender impact of Australia's tax-transfer system in an international and comparative context, demonstrating inefficient and inequitable tax policy ranging from high effective marginal tax rates on mothers with young children to retirement incomes, the wage return to education and women in the top one per cent of income earners.

### Retirement incomes policy

David Ingles, Emily Millane and Miranda Stewart continued our research project on the tax and transfer settings of superannuation and the age pension in Australia. The project aims to develop a fair, coherent and sustainable approach to retirement incomes policy across both income tax settings for superannuation saving and the means-tested age pension. An article on a coherent approach to retirement incomes and the age pension was accepted for publication in *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies* and several submissions were made in response to the federal government's budget reform package for retirement incomes, as well as numerous contributions in blog articles and national media to this significant public debate.

## Tax system behaviour, compliance and administration

TTPI researchers carry out a series of projects that aim to use new data and methods to deepen our empirical understanding of the tax and transfer system and to develop and test new approaches to modelling and evaluating tax system behaviour. Many of these projects have been developed in collaboration with government agencies and other researchers.

### Estimating behavioural effects from changes to the GST on goods purchases

This project by Mathias Sinning and Syed Hasan has applied detailed information about supermarket purchases to estimate price elasticities of demand for a range of food categories. An instrumental variable strategy is employed to address endogeneity issues. The estimates obtained from the analysis

are used to study the implications of (i) a hypothetical increase in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 10 to 15 per cent and (ii) a broadening of the tax base to selected food categories. The results may be used to examine the behavioural responses and welfare effects of changes to the GST and other consumption taxes. The project uses ACNielsen Homescan data obtained by TTPI with the Centre for Social Research and Methods at the ANU, and is stored in the ANU Data Archive as a resource for other researchers. It has produced a working paper, a blog article and numerous seminar and conference presentations during the year.

### Data and modelling infrastructure and methods

TTPI is contributing to developing the data infrastructure necessary for researchers to carry out research and analysis on taxes and transfers, with the Australian Tax Office, Treasury and DSS. TTPI also benefits from substantial work on modelling that is carried out at The Australian National University, including distributional modelling at the Centre for Social Research and Methods, College of the Arts and Social Sciences, and in the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics. Mathias Sinning, Ben Phillips and Miranda Stewart presented on new data and methods to approach tax and welfare policy design to visitors from the Indonesian Ministry of Finance.

#### *Longitudinal individuals file, Australian Taxation Office*

Professor Robert Breunig continued to provide advice to the ATO on its project to create a longitudinal data file of tax and superannuation data. Professor Breunig is a member of the Technical Advisory Group advising on the design of the Australian Longitudinal Individuals File, which will be released in the first half of 2018. The file is designed to meet increased academic demand for tax and superannuation data to carry out research while at the same time safeguarding privacy and security.

This project builds on the ATO's history of making data available for researchers, including releasing an annual sample of individual income tax files for almost a decade and publishing aggregate annual tax statistics tables for around 100 years. Approved researchers will be able to access the file remotely via the Secure Unified Research Environment system, which is operated by the not-for-profit Sax Institute. Researchers will be given a virtual workspace with various software tools, allowing them to run queries against the data. The data is encrypted end to end and stored on dedicated servers hosted in a high security data centre with 24-hour security surveillance. No data is stored on the researchers' local computers or their institutional networks.

TTPI fellows Ben Phillips and Matt Taylor, both with the Centre for Social Research and Methods, carried out work on distributional modelling of taxes and transfers including participating in an invitation-only modelling workshop at Victoria University of Wellington with the New Zealand and Australian Treasuries (May 2016).

### ***PolicyMod: Microsimulation model, Centre for Social Research and Methods***

PolicyMod is a model of the Australian tax and transfer system and can model household and individual impacts of existing and alternative policies for previous years, current year and over the forward estimates. The model is also capable of projecting the impacts out to 2055. PolicyMod was developed and is operated by the Centre for Social Research and Methods including lead researchers Ben Phillips, Matthew Taylor and Cukkoo Joseph.

PolicyMod capabilities include:

- > distributional analysis
- > hypothetical (cameo) analysis
- > effective marginal tax rates
- > regional modelling.

The distributional model considers the entire Australian population and is capable of estimating the policy impacts for a vast array of variables such as: family type, income deciles, housing tenure and social security payment type. The cameo model provides policy impacts for selected family types across a range of private incomes.

The model is primarily based on the ABS Survey of Income and Housing and uses a range of other data from ABS and other government departments to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the model. The model governance includes an advisory panel with representatives from both academia and government.

TTPI researchers David Ingles and Miranda Stewart worked with Arndt-Corden Visiting Fellow Chris Murphy to model a range of company tax rate and base reform options. Chris Murphy has further developed his CGE model of the tax system in the Australian economy during his time at the Crawford School, with a particular focus on the efficiency of company tax, federal-state tax reform, financial services and goods and services tax.

### **Elasticity of taxable income**

Researchers at TTPI led by Robert Breunig and including Mathias Sinning and PhD candidate Shane Johnson are conducting a project using administrative taxpayer panel record data to estimate behavioural response elasticities of taxpayers to differential marginal tax rates, thresholds and notches in the tax system, such as the personal income tax rate structure and Higher Education Contribution levy phase-in. The project provides valuable evidence of taxpayer responses through labour supply and tax planning to elements of income tax.

### **Payment thinking: Applying behavioural insights in the tax system**

Mathias Sinning, Miranda Stewart, Robert Breunig and Nick Biddle of the Centre for Social Research and Methods, and Postdoctoral fellow Dr Christian Gillitzer, carried out an empirical research project with the Australian Taxation Office on payment thinking and debt in the tax system. Visiting researcher Katja Fels

also worked on the project. The research is particularly focused on whether behavioural insights and nudges can be used for business taxpayers, as well as individuals.

### ***Applying behavioural insights in randomized controlled trials***

A team of TTPI researchers partnering with the Australian Taxation Office, with funding from ARC Linkage Grant LP160100810, directly work with tax administrators to explore and evaluate ways to improve compliance and payment in the tax system. The project involves innovative field research applying randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental approaches to assessment, payment and debt systems. Mathias Sinning has also applied in these trials a new method to estimate the proportion of members of a treatment group who benefit from a given intervention, improving randomization and field experiment approaches. The approach accounts for heterogeneity in treatment responses.

The trials apply behavioural insights such as social norms and timing of payment to the real-world tax payment system. Two trials were conducted in 2016-2017, both registered with the 'gold standard' American Economic Association register of randomized controlled trials. The project has produced two Working Papers and several blog articles already this year, and publications are under submission to journals. The trials were designed to preserve realism in all relevant domains and they demonstrate, in a nutshell, that businesses may not be responsive to all 'nudges', but that they can be nudged towards tax compliance in particular ways. They found that businesses are responsive to help on payment plans and to the removal of barriers to compliance.

The research team liaised closely with the Behavioural Economics Team in the Australian Government, led by Professor Michael Hiscox (Harvard University) who is an advisor on the project. It is also advised by Professor Valerie Braithwaite and further develops the ground-breaking work of the Centre for Tax System Integrity that she led at ANU over the last decade.

## **Taxation of capital and business**

Research Fellow David Ingles and Miranda Stewart carried out a series of research projects focused on the taxation of capital in Australia in a global era, with TTPI fellows and research secondees.

### **Future of the company tax and multinational tax avoidance**

This project explores the theory and different tax policy approaches to corporate tax in Australia and in a broader theoretical context from first principles, applied in the current context. It became highly relevant in 2016-2017 in the context of contested political and public debates (and estimated fiscal cost) of lowering Australia's company tax rate from 30 per cent to 25 per cent.

### **Do we need an annual wealth tax?**

There is increasing interest internationally in the role of wealth taxation in tax system design. Australia abolished our inheritance taxes decades ago. However, given Australia's current hybrid income-expenditure tax, an annual wealth tax could make sense



as a way of ironing out disparities in the tax treatment of different assets. It could be designed to approximate a comprehensive income tax outcome by combining a wage tax with deeming, or it could fall more lightly. Australia already has an annual wealth tax in the transfer system (the pension asset test); the issue arises as to why we would confine wealth taxation to the not-so-well-off. A TTPI working paper was produced by David Ingles in March 2016.

### **Transnational tax law and transparency**

This project explores the development and future of transnational tax law in an era of increasing international tax cooperation and administration. Yet at the same time governments are experiencing more than ever the reality of tax competition in a global era. How is transnational tax law authorised, enacted and its legitimacy established? Miranda Stewart participated in a conference on human rights and tax in an unequal world at New York University School of Law in September 2016, presenting on the role of transparency in human rights, and at the University of Birmingham, UK.

### **Tax and the digital economy**

This project examines tax issues in digital and sharing economies, from a conceptual and policy perspective, including developments such as cryptocurrencies. Research fellow Joel Emery and Miranda Stewart published an article on the application of the goods and services tax to digital currency and contributed to the Australian law reform process revising this tax treatment. Miranda Stewart was appointed to the advisory group to the Black Economy Taskforce and Trevor Breusch wrote on the method of estimation of the black economy. A project is underway on the role of thresholds in the GST and other tax systems.

## **Budgets and fiscal federalism**

The fourth major research program of TTPI is about the overall fiscal system, including budget laws and institutions, public financial management, fiscal federalism and reform. Disappointingly, the major tax and federalism reform processes in Australia have been discontinued by the current government. TTPI researchers continue to investigate processes and institutions of budgets, federalism and reform. A particular focus in 2016-2017 has been gender budgeting.

### **Australian fiscal federalism**

Research continued on various aspects of tax reform in the fiscal federation, including a contribution by Miranda Stewart to *A People's Federation* (2017) edited by researchers at Griffith University and research by Mathias Sinning and Chris Murphy on reform of the goods and services tax and the taxation of financial services.

### **Land rent and housing taxation**

This project explores theory and policy for land taxation, an important issue for Australian state tax reform. There is increased interest in land taxation in Australia and indeed in other countries, as reflected for example in the Henry report on tax reform in 2010 and the UK Mirrlees Report in 2011. This interest stems from the immobility of land as a factor of production,

which stands in contrast to other factors such as capital and labour. David Ingles published a working paper that revisits the work of the 18th century reformer Henry George, and considers the theoretical and political challenges of George's 'single tax' and how this informs more realistic proposals for land tax reform. Huong Dinh commenced a research project on household debt and assets, with a focus on rental investment housing, using data from the Household Income and Labour Dynamics Survey.

### **Index of Budget Transparency: Australia**

Miranda Stewart and researcher Shuchita Pota engaged with the International Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington DC, United States, to prepare the first ever report on the transparency of Australia's budget, to contribute to the Open Budget Index, the world's only independent comparative measure of central government budget transparency. A detailed report of Australia's budget process, documentation and publications was prepared and subject to rigorous independent review by anonymous reviewers from academia and from the Department of Finance. The index now includes 130 countries. The report of budget transparency will be released in early 2018.

### **Gender responsive budgeting**

Monica Costa, Emily Millane, Julie Smith and Miranda Stewart developed a new research project on gender responsive budgeting and gender impact analysis of public policy, in response to significant interest and demand from both federal and state government departments. The project included developing materials for training of government and civil society organisations in gender responsive budget analysis. A grant was obtained from the Asia-Pacific Innovation Program of the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, to hold a workshop in 2017, bringing together Indian, Korean and other regional organisations to develop and trial a gender budget framework for breastfeeding to advance maternal and child health, and gender equality.

Monica Costa's book, *Gender Budgeting in Fragile States: The case of Timor L'Este*, was completed and is in press (Routledge, 2018). Miranda Stewart contributed to the National Foundation for Australian Women, *Gender Lens on the Budget 2017-18* which received wide media coverage, especially for the analysis of effective marginal tax rates arising from income tax, Higher Education Contribution Scheme and family payment means testing for low income women. Several public talks and blog articles were produced on the topic.

### **Tax-transfer system resilience**

Research by various TTPI fellows and staff addressed the sustainability, efficiency and resilience of the tax-transfer system as a whole. Chris Murphy further developed his research on the marginal excess burden of Australia's tax system. Huong Dinh, Richard Reid and Miranda Stewart developed a project applying complex systems theory and resilience analysis to the tax-transfer system as a whole. This project examines the equilibria and feedback loops in the tax-transfer socio-fiscal system, and seeks to develop empirical indicators of tipping points that would indicate negative outcomes, for example in response to global tax competition, the changing nature of work and digital technologies.

# EVENTS

TTPI holds numerous events each year, including a substantial conference that brings together leading members of academia in Australia and globally, with representatives of government, business, the professions and the community sector to consider major tax and transfer issues. In addition, TTPI hosts a popular research seminar series and collaborates with the Social Policy Institute and other partners to hold invitation only research and policy workshops.

## Signature events

Three of TTPI's signature events in 2016-2017 were on company tax, a key issue that was the focus of policy and public attention, and law reform, in Australia and internationally.

### Global corporate tax: anti-abuse, transparency and co-operative compliance

20 July 2016

In this lively public event, Professor Judith Freedman of Oxford University presented on the current state of play in the United Kingdom on multinational corporate tax. Corporate tax is a hot topic in Australia and the United Kingdom. Australia has followed the United Kingdom in enacting multinational anti-abuse and diverted profits taxes, and both countries are implementing coordinated exchange of information and country by country reporting as part of the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Action Plan. At the same time, the United Kingdom has dramatically lowered its company tax rate (to reach 17 per cent by 2020), while Australia is engaged in a policy debate on lowering our corporate tax rate to 25 per cent.

The event was chaired by Miranda Stewart. It was attended by 65 people and was recorded, with the audio recording and presentations available on the website. The presentation by Professor Freedman was followed by a panel discussion on these issues in the Australian context. Perspectives were provided by outstanding speakers:

- > Andrew Mills, Second Commissioner, Australian Taxation Office
- > Karen Payne, CEO of the Board of Taxation, Treasury
- > Kelly Dent, Head of Public Policy and Advocacy, Oxfam Australia
- > Chris Vanderkley, Head of Tax, GE Australia, New Zealand



*Global corporate tax*



*Complexity in government and markets*



## The future of corporate tax

8 December 2016

Professor Wolfgang Schön, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich, Germany, presented on trends in corporate tax reform in Europe and the United Kingdom, in the context of the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project and new conceptual approaches for redesign of company tax for the future. John Hewson chaired the event and commentary was provided by Mr Graeme Davis of the Australian Treasury. About 25 people attended.

## On tax policy, how will the world get Trumped?

14 March 2017

US tax reform is not easy, requiring both the President and Congress to agree on a package. There is a deep interest in business tax reform but how to move ahead will be challenging. In this public lecture followed by commentary, attended by more than 50 people, Dr Jack Mintz of the School of Public Policy, at the University of Calgary provided a review of potential policy options and their implications for trading partners including Canada being most exposed to US tax reform, and Australia. This event was co-sponsored by the Minerals Council of Australia.

## 21st Century welfare and the working poor

16 February 2017

Ensuring adequate incomes for poor working families is a key policy challenge in many countries. The growth of low-paid and part-time work, sometimes in circumstances of unstable or temporary employment, has increased inequalities in work and means so that for many people wages alone are not enough to keep the family at an adequate standard of living. This is particularly true if there is only one potential earner in the family, and so in many countries it is lone mothers and couples with pre-school age children who are particularly likely to face financial hardship.

Professor Jane Millar, Distinguished International Visitor, presented the development of in-work wage supplements. This has been an important policy response, and in the UK this chosen route has included the extension of a system of means-tested 'tax credits', intended not only to support people to move into employment but also to help to sustain work, and even to progress within work to higher wages or longer work hours.

This lecture, attended by 35 people, explored these issues drawing on an in-depth study of 15 British families, over a period of about 15 years. This is a unique data set. Survey panel data is able to map employment trajectories and analyse the risk factors associated with different patterns and outcomes. Our qualitative research complements this by providing insights into motivations, attitudes and choices, exploring how people respond to changes, opportunities and constraints.

## Complexity in governments and markets

19 April 2017

As governments expanded their activities over the years, pushing spending from around 10 per cent of GDP at the beginning of the last century to the current levels of 30 to 50 per cent of GDP, while increasing intervention through regulations, they tended to lose much of their ability to monitor well what they did. This led to problems of corruption, inefficiency, rent seeking, cronyism, and generally less equitable results in terms of economic results and income distribution. Professor Vito Tanzi discussed the challenge of complexity in governments and markets in terms of tax, spending and regulation, in an event attended by 40 people.

Following the keynote speaker an **In Conversation** panel discussion was held with Vito Tanzi, Miranda Stewart, Roger Bradbury of the National Security College and Stephen Howes of The Development Policy Centre. The lecture and discussion were published in an Austaxpolicy blog post about *Complexity in Governments and Markets*.



*On tax policy, how will the world get Trumped?*

### Budget 2017-2018, May 2017 events and presentations

Researchers at TTPI contributed in substantial ways to various events for the 2017-18 Budget. These were attended by many policy makers. The Austaxpolicy blog hosted our second very successful Budget Forum 2017, publishing ten original blog articles about aspects of the budget. The forum received significant media attention and led to op-eds and interviews in a range of other forums. Miranda Stewart appeared on QandA to discuss the Budget, with Minister Simon Birmingham, Shadow Treasurer Chris Bowen, Greens Senator Larissa Waters and Innes Willox, from the Australian Industry Group.

**ANU Post Budget Public Forum**, Chair, Catherine McGrath, Panelists; Sharon Bessell, John Hewson, Warwick McKibbin, Miranda Stewart, 16 May 2017

**What's next on the horizon? Post-budget policy analysis**, Sir Roland Wilson Foundation, Peter Davidson, John Hewson, Miranda Stewart, Lenore Taylor, 25 May 2017

**National Press Club, Reflections on Budget 2017-2018, Women in Economics** Professor Miranda Stewart joined a panel about the Budget on 17 May 2017 at the National Press Club, hosted by Women in Economics, with Professor Rachel Ong of Curtin University and Dr Danielle Wood of the Grattan Institute. The panel presentations were published on the Austaxpolicy blog.

### Invitation roundtable: the economics, incidence and modelling of corporate tax reform

15 March 2017

This invitation-only roundtable discussion, delivered in partnership with the Minerals Council of Australia, brought together 22 academics, researchers, senior public servants and private sector stakeholders to discuss the economic modelling of corporate tax reform and technical and policy aspects of the government's proposed corporate tax cut (the Enterprise Tax Plan).

Presentations and comments were made by: Chris Murphy and Miranda Stewart, TTPI; Janine Dixon, Victoria University; John Freebairn, University of Melbourne; Jim Minifie, Grattan Institute; Jack Mintz, University of Calgary, Canada; and Greg Smith, Commonwealth Grants Commission. Participants came from the Department of Industry, the Treasury, Parliamentary Budget Office, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Grattan Institute, and the Minerals Council among others.

The workshop addressed issues about the future design of the corporate tax base and rate for Australia in light of international developments and challenges. Corporate tax performs multiple functions in the Australian tax system and so corporate tax policy must be pragmatic, building on what we can learn from economic modelling, insights from theory and other country experiences. The workshop considered the Enterprise Tax Plan including the expected economic and fiscal effects in the short and longer term, of a company tax cut to 25 per cent, depending on how the company tax cut is financed and issues relating to domestic and foreign, large and small business. The workshop then turned to consider future design of the corporate tax base. Proposals being debated internationally and in Australia aim to address issues of competitiveness; base erosion and profit shifting; taxing economic rents; and removing distortions between debt and equity financing.



ANU Post Budget Public Forum

## TTPI research seminar series

TTPI hosted eleven public research lunchtime seminars in the 2016-2017 year. The seminars were well attended by between 20 to 40 people each time, from the Treasury, Australian Taxation Office, Department of Social Services, Parliamentary Budget Office and Parliamentary Library, ministers' staff, academics and students.

**Professor Benno Torgler**, Queensland University of Technology, 'Commitment to pay taxes: a field experiment on the importance of promise', 9 August 2016

**Dr Mathias Sinning**, Crawford School of Public Policy ANU, 'GST reform in Australia: implications of estimating price elasticities of demand for food', 20 September 2016

**Mr Steven Hamilton**, University of Michigan, 'How do tax returns respond to tax rate changes? Decomposing the elasticity of taxable income', 20 October 2016

**Dr Janine Dixon**, Victoria University, 'The impact of changing the company tax rate in Australia', 26 October 2016

**Mr Peter Mellor**, Monash University, 'Income taxation by states in a federation: allocation of business income', 22 November 2016

**Professor Neil H Buchanan**, The George Washington University, 'Retirement security issues in Australia and the United States', 21 February 2017

**Mr Matthew Taylor**, Centre for Social Research and Methods ANU, 'The likely distributional impacts of Parental Leave Pay reform', 7 March 2017

**Mr Sebastian Wende**, Crawford School of Public Policy, 'The cost of raising an additional dollar of revenue', 19 April 2017

**Professor Bob Gregory**, ANU, 'Australian fiscal forecasts in a time of political spin and policy change', 26 April 2017

**Mr Chris Hoy**, University of Sydney, 'Boosting tax compliance in Indonesia using insights from behavioural economics', 23 May 2017

**Associate Professor Lisa Marriott**, Victoria University of Wellington, 'Governing the poor in New Zealand', 27 June 2017

## Tax and social policy workshops

In partnership with Jobs Australia, the TTPI and the Social Policy Institute at the Crawford School held a series of workshops exploring major social policy concerns. The workshops bring together academics, researchers, senior public servants and others from the policy community. The workshops are invitation-only and aim to facilitate frank discussion and debate about difficult tax, transfer and social policy issues, in particular where issues cross policy fields.

## Improving the economic participation of people with a disability

8 September 2016

More than four million Australians aged 16 to 65 have a disability. They face a multiplicity of issues in joining, and remaining in, the workforce. People with disabilities are less likely to be employed and participating in the labour market and more likely to be unemployed than other Australians. Australia ranks 21st out of 29 OECD countries for disability employment.

This presentation by Honorary Associate Professor Dr Ann Nevile looked at current policy settings to help Australians with a disability to find employment; consider the current 'performance management' framework; and propose some core design principles which are necessary for improved employment outcomes. It also considered the results of work on 'measuring quality' in the provision of disability employment services. The commentators were Peter Whiteford (Crawford School, ANU) and Peter Defteros (Jobs Australia). The workshop was attended by 37 participants including from Departments of Employment, Social Services, Human Services, Prime Minister and Cabinet and from non-government organisations.

## The impact of policy change and macroeconomic conditions on Australian single mothers

28 October 2016

This workshop examined the effectiveness of policies aimed at increasing the employment rates of single mothers and the impact of changes in the macro-economy. A presentation was given by Professor Matthew Gray, Director of the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, and David Stanton of the Crawford School. Respondents to the presentation were Jacqueline Phillips, Policy Director at ACOSS and Emma-Kate McGuirk, Manager of the Work and Study Payments Branch, Department of Social Services. The workshop was attended by 25 participants including from Department of Social Services, Treasury, Department of Employment and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

## Social investment and gender equality: a critical case of childcare in the European Union and welfare policies on lone-parents in New Zealand

7 November 2016

Associate Professor in Law at the University of Canterbury, Annick Masselot, presented on social investment and gender equality. The EU and in NZ have increasingly made reference to 'social investment' in the area of social policy development in recent years. Social investment approaches support strong female labour force participation through the help of state subsidized work-family conciliation policies, early childcare and education. The central aims of social investment are to invest in children in order to develop their human capital and to prepare them for future employment, and to end the intergenerational transfer of poverty. As women continue to do most of the unpaid care, these child-centred policies should directly be concerned with gender equality. However, a critical inspection of the policies on childcare in the EU and of lone-parent welfare benefits in NZ reveals that gender equality concerns are in fact quasi-inexistent.



In both cases, gender equality has been hijacked to become an instrument designed to realise economic and demographic aims. Moreover the focus on children is contributing to reducing complex gender relations to a limiting concept of motherhood.

Miranda Stewart and Peter Whiteford responded to the presentation and facilitated a roundtable discussion. There were 26 participants including from the Productivity Commission, the ACT Government and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

### **Change, choice and constraint: qualitative longitudinal research in social policy**

9 February 2017

Distinguished visitor Professor Jane Millar OBE a renowned British expert on social security, poverty and family policy, led a research workshop that explored issues in the use of qualitative longitudinal methods in policy research. The workshop was attended by 23 participants including from Department of Social Services, Department of Employment and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Professor Millar's presentation was based on a 15-year project in the UK which has been following a sample of low-income lone-parent families. The women had all recently started work and were receiving tax credits (a means-tested benefit for low paid workers). This study included three important elements – the longitudinal qualitative data, the focus on children as active participants in the family, and an ongoing engagement with policy and policy change. The workshop discussed the background to the project; aims, design and methods, including analysis and ethical issues; key themes and policy engagement.

### **Social security and tax debt, fraud, enforcement and penalties**

28 June 2017

Associate Professor Lisa Marriott, School of Accounting and Commercial Law, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, presented her research, including empirical work funded by a Marsden grant, on the enforcement of debt and fraud in social security and tax systems in New Zealand. She discussed attitudes to social security and tax fraud; the treatment of tax evasion and welfare fraud in the New Zealand justice system and of debtors to the Crown in each system as well as new legislation that provides for partners of welfare fraudsters to be prosecuted and be liable for the debt generated by their partner.

The workshop was attended by 27 participants, including from the Australian Taxation Office and Department of Human Services, the Treasury, Department of Social Services and the Productivity Commission. Comments from an Australian perspective were provided by Peter Sutherland of the ANU College of Law and Mr Chris Leech of the Australian Tax Office, who recently completed research on a secondment to TTPI about penalties for tax fraud. Ms Cath Halbert of the Department of Social Services made some remarks and Miranda Stewart facilitated a discussion of the issues about enforcement, debt and governance of the tax and transfer system.

## **Government research seminars**

In 2016-2017, TTPI organised several in-house research seminars in the Australian Taxation Office, Treasury and Department of Social Services. Seminars were presented by TTPI research secondees and visitors. These were very well attended and ATO seminars were located in its national office and were broadcast by videolink across the ATO nation-wide.

- > Melissa Ogiers, 'Mind the gap – The arm's length principle and MNE value creation', ATO, 22 July 2016
- > Judith Freedman, 'Multinational tax avoidance', Treasury, 22 July 2016
- > Tereza Rogic-Lugaric, 'Co-operative compliance in comparative perspective', ATO, 26 October 2016
- > Wolfgang Schön, 'Trends in corporate tax in Europe', Treasury, 9 December 2016
- > Jane Millar, 'Universal credit – The UK's new working age benefit', DSS, 16 February 2017



*Social security and tax debt, fraud enforcement and penalties*

# PUBLICATIONS

TTPI researchers, fellows and visitors publish and present our research in a wide range of ranked academic, policy and public forums.

The TTPI Working Paper Series is the only specialist tax and transfer working paper series in Australia and the region. The aim of the Series is to promote excellent tax and transfer research work in progress from all disciplines relevant to taxes and transfers. Submissions are lightly peer reviewed. Working papers are open access and are distributed through the Crawford Social Science Research Network (SSRN) Series. Working papers may be published jointly with other working paper series or institutes.

TTPI has established an occasional policy brief series providing explanations and analysis of key tax and transfer issues of relevance to policy makers. The aim is to inform and explain issues for policy and public debate.

## TTPI working papers

**WP5/2016**, Apps, P, 'Gender equity in the tax-transfer system for fiscal sustainability' (August 2016)

**WP6/2016**, Ingles, D, 'Taxes on land rent' (September 2016)

**WP7/2016**, Ogier, M, 'Mind the gap - The arm's length principle and MNE value creation' (September 2016)

**WP8/2016**, Arcos Holzinger, L, Biddle, N, 'Behavioural insights of tax compliance: An overview of recent conceptual and empirical approaches' (October 2016)

**WP9/2016**, Kraal, D, 'The petroleum resource rent tax: overview of primary documents and literature leading to the 1987 legislation' (October 2017)

**WP10/2016**, Koessler, A, Torgler, B, Feld, L, Frey, B, 'Commitment to pay taxes: a field experiment on the importance of promise' (November 2016)

**WP1/2017**, Hasan, S, Sinning, M, 'GST reform in Australia: Implications of estimating price elasticities of demand for food' (March 2017)

**WP2/2017**, Biddle, N, Fels, K, Sinning, M, 'Behavioural insights and business taxation: Evidence from two randomized controlled trials' (May 2017)

## TTPI policy briefs

**PB4/2016**, Ingles, D and Plunkett, D, 'Effective marginal tax rates' (August 2016)

**PB5/2016**, Whiteford, P, 'Should we be worried about 'Zero Net Taxpayers'? (November 2016)

**PB6/2016**, Millane, E, '2016 Budget superannuation reforms' (December 2016)

## Academic publications

Bachmann, R and **Sinning, M** (2016) 'Decomposing the ins and outs of cyclical unemployment', *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics* 78; 853-876

**Biddle, N, Fels, K, Sinning, M** (May 2017) Behavioural insights and business taxation: Evidence from two randomized controlled trials, IZA DP No. 10795

**Braithwaite, J** (2017) 'Responsive excellence' in C. Coglianese (ed) *Achieving Regulatory Excellence*. Washington: Brookings Institution

**Braithwaite, J** (2017) 'Types of responsiveness'. In P. Drahoš (ed) *Regulatory Theory: Foundations and Applications*. Canberra: ANU Press

**Breusch, T** (2016) 'Estimating underground economic activity using MIMIC models', *Journal of Tax Administration* 2(1), 41-72.

**Burke, P** (2016) 'Undermined by adverse selection: Australia's Direct Action abatement subsidies.' *Economic Papers* 35(3): 216-229 (Awarded Best Paper in the journal Economic Papers for 2016)

**Chapman, B**, Botterill, L, and Kelly, S (2017) 'Revisiting revenue contingent loans for drought relief: government as risk manager', *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* 60: 1-18.

**Chapman, B** and Dearden, L (2017) 'Conceptual and empirical issues for alternative student loan designs: The significance of loan repayment burdens for the US', *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 671 (May): 249-269.

**Chapman, B** (2016) 'Income contingent loans as a general risk management instrument', in E. Stiglitz and Guzman (eds) *Contemporary Issues in Microeconomics*, Palgrave Macmillan, IEA Conference Volume No. 155 – III: 137-144.

**Chapman, B** (2017) 'Student financing of higher education' (with Darragh Flannery and Aedin Doris), in Cullinan and Flannery (eds) *Economic insights on higher education policy in Ireland*, Palgrave Macmillan, London: 247-272.

Cobb-Clark, D, Kassenboehmer, S, **Sinning, M** (2016) 'Locus of control and savings', *Journal of Banking and Finance* 73; 113-130.

Cooper, G, Dirkis, M, **Stewart, M**, Vann, R (2017) *Income Taxation: Commentary and Materials*, 8th ed, Sydney: Thomson Reuters

**Emery, J and Stewart, M** (2017) 'The taxing challenge of digital currency' *Journal of Banking & Finance Law and Policy* 28: 236-269.

**Fenwick, T** (2017). Presidents and policy-making: has Brazil's CCT-led anti-poverty agenda gone far enough?, *Policy Studies* 8(3) DOI: 10.1080/01442872.2017.1290230

**Fenwick, T** (2017) 'From CCTs to a social investment welfare state? Brazil's 'new' pro-poor strategy', *Development Policy Review* May 2017, DOI: 10.1111/dpr.12247

Glomm, G, Jung, J, & **Tran, C** (2017) 'Fiscal austerity measures: spending cuts vs. tax increases', *Macroeconomic Dynamics*

Godber, P and **Stewart, M** (2017) 'Speed dating in the new tax era: the BEPS Convention kicks off,' *The Tax Specialist* 16-27.

Gong, X, and **Breunig, R** (2017) 'Child care assistance: Are subsidies or tax credits better?' *Fiscal Studies* 38(1):7-48. DOI:10.1111/1475-5890.12085

**Ingles, D, Stewart, M** (2017) 'Reforming Australia's superannuation tax system and the age pension to improve work and savings incentives', *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, doi: 10.1002/app5.184

**Jha, R** (2017) 'Indian federalism beyond the financial crisis', in R Eccleston, and R Krever, (eds) *The Future of Federalism: Intergovernmental Financial Relations in an Age of Austerity* Gloucestershire, UK: Edward Elgar

**Jha, R** (2017) 'Decentralization, indirect tax reforms and fiscal federalism in India' in S De, (ed) *India's Fiscal Policy: Prescriptions, Pragmatics and Practice*, New Delhi and Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Jung, J, & **Tran, C** (2016) 'Market inefficiency, insurance mandate and welfare: U.S. health care reform 2010', *Review of Economic Dynamics* 20: 132-159

Jung, J, **Tran, C** and Chambers, M (2017) 'Aging and health financing in the US: A General Equilibrium Analysis', *European Economic Review*

Mumtaz, Z, and **Whiteford, P** (2017) 'Social safety nets in the development of a welfare system in Pakistan: an analysis of the Benazir Income Support Programme', *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration*, 39:1: 16-38, DOI:10.1080/23276665.2017.1290902

**Sinning, M** (2017) 'Gender differences in costs and returns to higher education' in M Stewart (ed) *Tax, Social Policy and Gender: Rethinking Equality and Efficiency*, ANU Press Canberra.

**Sinning, M** (2016) 'The financial capacity of German university graduates to repay student loans', in E. Stiglitz, Guzman (eds), *Contemporary Issues in Microeconomics*, Palgrave Macmillan

**Stewart, M** (2017) 'Two ideas for renewal of Australia's fiscal federal democracy' in M Bruerton, T Arklay, R Hollander, and R Levy, (eds) *A People's Federation* Federation Press

**Stewart, M** (2017) 'Australia's hybrid international tax system: A limited focus on tax and development' in KB Brown, (ed) *Taxation and Development – A Comparative Study* (NY: Springer)

**Stewart, M** (2017) (ed) *Tax, social policy and gender: rethinking equality and efficiency*, ANU Press Canberra

**Stewart, M, Voitchovsky, S and Wilkins, R** (2017) 'Women and top incomes in Australia' in M Stewart, (ed) *Tax, Social Policy and Gender: Rethinking Equality and Efficiency*, ANU Press Canberra

**Stewart, M** (2017) 'Gender inequality in Australia's tax-transfer system' in M Stewart, M (ed) *Tax, Social Policy and Gender: Rethinking Equality and Efficiency*, ANU Press Canberra

**Tran, A, Zhu, YH** (2017) 'The impact of adopting international financial reporting standards on corporate effective tax rate and book-tax income gap', *Australian Tax Forum*, 32, No 4.

**Tran, C** (2016), 'Fiscal policy as a temptation control device: Savings subsidy and social security', *Economic Modelling*, Vol. 55: 254-268.

**Whiteford, P** (2017) 'Social Security and welfare spending in Australia: Assessing long-term trends', Policy Brief no: 1/2017, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, July Canberra.

**Whiteford P** (2016) Should we be worried about 'Zero Net Taxpayers'? Policy Brief no: 5/2016, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, November, Canberra

## Conference papers, reports and other papers

**Biddle, N, Fels, K, and Sinning, M** 'Behavioral insights and business taxation: evidence from two randomized controlled trials', Tax and Transfer Policy Institute Working Paper 02/2017, 2017

**Deutscher, N, and Breunig, R** 'Baby bonuses: natural experiments in cash transfers, birth timing and child outcomes', submitted to Economic Record, 2017

**Hasan, S, and Sinning, M** 'GST reform in Australia: implications of estimating price elasticities of demand for food', Crawford School Working Paper No.1705, 2017

**Ingles, D** 'Taxes on land rent' TTPI Working Paper 6/2016

**Ingles, D** 'What future for the corporation tax?' TTPI Working Paper 3/2017

**Li, X, and Tran, A** 'Australian dividend imputation system and corporate tax avoidance', Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand Conference, Gold Coast, July 2016

**Millane, E** 'The politics of Australian superannuation', Australasian Tax Teachers' Association Conference, Wellington, New Zealand, January 2017

**Millane, E** 'The politics of tax reform in Australia', Australian Policy and History Workshop, Canberra, Australia, November 2016

**Ogier, M** 'Mind the Gap - The arm's length principle and value creation', TTPI WP7/2016

**Phillips, B, and Gray, M** 'Distributional modelling of the Australian tax and social security system changes: 2005-2015 and beyond', CSRM, 2017

**Phillips, B** 'Overview of ANU's new microsimulation model – PolicyMod', International Microsimulation Association Conference, June 2017

**Phillips, B, and Gray, M** 'Policy versus economic impacts: The economic position of Australian single parents post the GFC', Foundation for International Studies in Social Security, 6 June 2017

**Phillips, B, and Joseph C** 'Income trends for selected single parent families', CSRM, November 2016

**Sinning, M** 'GST reform in Australia: implications of estimating price elasticities of demand for food', ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods, Canberra, July 2016



**Sinning, M** 'GST reform in Australia: implications of estimating price elasticities of demand for food', Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Trade and Development Seminar, Canberra, July 2016

**Sinning, M** 'GST reform in Australia: implications of estimating price elasticities of demand for food', Tax and Transfer Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Canberra, 20 September 2016

**Sinning, M** 'A Comparative analysis of distributional changes in household wealth', Longitudinal Data Conference, National Centre for Longitudinal Data, Department of Social Services, Canberra, October 2016

**Sinning, M** 'Student loan reforms in Germany', Tongji Higher Education Internationalization Forum, Higher Education Student Finance Workshop, Tongji University, Shanghai/China, October 2016

**Sinning, M** 'Behavioural insights and business taxation: evidence from two randomized controlled trials', 5th Annual Workshop of the Tax Administration Research Centre, Exeter/UK, April 2017

**Stewart, M** 'Transparency and human rights', Human Rights and Tax in an Unequal World, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU, 23 September 2016

**Stewart, M** 'Multinational anti-avoidance and BEPS', National University of Singapore, International Fiscal Association seminar, 30 September 2016

**Stewart, M** 'The tensions and contradictions continue: Theorising gender equality, work and care in the postmodern fiscal state', conference on Rethinking Care Responsibilities: Using Market Mechanisms to Promote Gender Equality, Tel Aviv and Bar-Ilan Universities, Israel, 8-9 January 2017

**Stewart, M** 'Transnational tax law and the future of the tax state', University of Toronto Law School Colloquium on Tax Policy, 26 January 2017

**Stewart, M** 'Transnational tax law', conference on Taxation: With or without borders, University of Birmingham Centre for Accounting and Governance Research, 31 January 2017

**Stewart, M, and Whiteford, P** 'Australia's hybrid tax-transfer system', Policy Beyond Ideology Research Workshop, ANU, December 2016

**Whiteford, P** 'Reforming income support for a changing labour market', Australian Long-Term Unemployment Conference, Brisbane, 1-2 December 2016.

**Whiteford, P** 'The challenges of the widening economic inequality gap: ideas for investors', Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees, Conference of Major Superannuation funds, Gold Coast, 22 March 2017

**Whiteford, P** 'Support through the welfare system', Childhood, Education and Welfare: Research and Policy Insights, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research and ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course, University of Melbourne, 15 February and Melbourne Institute Public Economics Forum, Canberra, 4 April 2017.

## Submissions

**Burke, P** Submission to Australia's Review of Climate Change policies (May 2017)

**Ingles, D, Millane, E, Stewart, M** Submission to Tranche I 2016 superannuation changes (September 2016)

**Ingles, D, Millane, E, Stewart, M** Submission to Tranche II 2016 superannuation changes (September 2016)

**Ingles, D, Millane, E, Stewart, M** Submission to Tranche III 2016 superannuation changes (October 2016)

## International research engagement

TTPI faculty have numerous links and with international research organisations including:

- > Civil Service College, Government of Singapore, Behavioural Insights Team
- > National University of Singapore
- > Hong Kong University Faculty of Law
- > National Institute for Public Finance, India
- > Korea Institute of Public Finance, Korea
- > European FairTax, Europe 2020 Project, Professor Asa Gunnarsson, Umea University, Malmo, Sweden
- > University of Michigan, United States
- > New York University School of Law, United States
- > Florida University Tax Program, Faculty of Law, United States
- > Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation and Law Faculty, United Kingdom
- > Centre for Global Research on Higher Education, London, United Kingdom
- > London School of Economics, United Kingdom
- > The US Department of Education, United States
- > The US Senate, Washington, United States
- > The Philadelphia Federal Reserve, United States
- > University of The Andes, Bogota, Colombia
- > Research with Impact (RWI) Essen, Germany
- > Institute for the study of Labor (IZA) Bonn, Germany
- > University of Toronto, Canada
- > University of Birmingham Centre for Accounting and Governance Research, United Kingdom

# ENGAGEMENT

TTPI engages with policy and service government agencies; political representatives; community and business stakeholders; the media and the broad public. TTPI aims through these activities to inform, enhance and influence public knowledge and debate about taxes and transfers. Staff and Fellows of TTPI engaged directly with parliamentarians as well as government agencies, through written submissions and appearances in parliamentary inquiries, meetings and roundtables at federal, state and territory level, and with representatives from the legislature of other countries, including India.

Professor Miranda Stewart participated in the Advisory Roundtable to the Black Economy Taskforce and was invited to be an expert on the Eminent Experts Group on Tax Policy, United Nations Economic and Social Commission.

In 2016-2017, the TTPI monthly newsletter increased its distribution from 700 to 870 recipients in Australia and around the world across government, business and community sectors, informing them of new developments, visitors, events and publications. The Austaxpolicy blog and Twitter handle @Austaxpolicy experienced significant growth in 2016-2017.

TTPI has conducted many of its activities in partnership with others, including other institutes at ANU and other universities, government departments, business and non-government organisations. This collaboration is central to TTPI's ability to influence public policy. In 2017-2018, we seek to continue our excellent record in policy engagement with the federal government and seek to build engagement with state and territory governments, and with governments and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, and globally. We propose to strengthen our public engagement through policy briefs and Austaxpolicy especially with business, community sector, and tax advisory and professional agencies.

## Selected speeches and presentations

### John Hewson

Standing Committee on Energy and Environment, 5 July 2016  
National Security College, 6 July 2016  
National Security College, 18 July 2016  
Energy Efficiency Conference, 19 July 2016  
GSA Conference, 21 July 2016  
La Trobe Valley Community event, 28-29 July 2016  
Ursula College Academic Dinner, 11 August 2016  
Parliamentary Briefing, 29 August 2016  
Westpac Future Leaders, ANU, 29 August 2016  
National Security College, 31 August 2016  
APIG Conference, 1 September 2016  
ASPS Defence Graduates, 7 September 2016  
Australian Institute of Credit Managers, 8 September 2016  
European Climate, Sydney University, 12 September 2016

Curtin Business School/ BCEE, 25-27 September 2016  
ANZIF Keynote, 4 October 2016  
Keynote, Study of Parliament Group, 6 October 2016  
EGN Newcastle Group, 7 October 2016  
AICM, Keynote, 12 October 2016  
Reserve Bank – Emerging Economists, 20 October 2016  
National Environment, Sydney University, 22 October 2016  
Energy Policy, Adelaide, 24 October 2016  
National Security College, 1 November 2016  
Uni of Canberra, 2 November 2016  
Energy and Renewables – Piper Alderman, 3 November 2016  
Annual Funeral Directors Dinner, 8 November 2016  
Launch BCEE Innovation Study, 11 November 2016  
Griffith University Conference 2 speeches, 28 November 2016  
New Democracy Panel, ANU, 29 November 2016  
IAE Convivium, 6 December 2016  
Tsinghua Exec program, 7-8 December 2016  
AODP Keynote, London, 12 December 2016  
Economics and Science Conference, ANU, 6 February 2017  
Sustainable Living Festival, Melbourne, 11 February 2017  
IGPA University of Canberra, 21 February 2017  
Alternative Finance Conference, 27 February 2017  
NQBE Business Conference, 9 March 2017  
TTPI Roundtable, 15 March 2017  
U3A, Canberra, 15 March 2017  
Sri Lanka Finance Delegation, 20 March 2017  
ANU Leadership and Influence, 23 March 2017  
IAE, University of Canberra, 28 March 2017  
Investment Roundtable – Mercer, 29 March 2017  
GSA Aspiring leaders Forum, 29 March 2017  
Regional Development Australia, 29 March 2017  
Keynote – Yorke and Mid North Alliance, 31 March 2017  
Australia/Germany Academic Exchange Canberra, 4 April 2017  
ASSA Panel, Canberra, 19 April 2017  
March for Science Keynote, 22 April 2017  
IAE, University of Canberra, 3 May 2017  
Podcast, Michelle Grattan, 3 May 2017  
Solar Council Conference, 4 May 2017  
PWC Budget Forum, 10 May 2017

Economic Society Canberra, 2017/18 Budget, 11 May 2017

University of Canberra – Future of Australian Economy 15 May 2017

SRWF Budget Forum, 25 May 2017

Curtin/BCEC, 26-27 May 2017

DFAT Briefing/NSC, 30 May 2017

Clean Energy Council AGM, Keynote, 30 May 2017

Defence Graduates Seminar, 31 May 2017

NMCT Newcastle, 2 June 2017

Public Sector Forum, 20 June 2017

National Security College, 20 June 2017

University of Sydney Asian MBA, 29 June 2017

### **Miranda Stewart**

'Rebooting Reform', University of New South Wales Roundtable, Sydney, 27 July 2016

'Tax and Transfer Policy', Australian Public Service Commission, Department of Finance graduates, Canberra, 10 August 2016

'Gender Budgeting and Tax Policy', Good Shepherd Australia NZ, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Melbourne, 16 August 2016

'Gender Budgeting and Policy Analysis', Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, Women and Royal Commission Branch, Melbourne, 19 August 2016

'Reform information education: a new paradigm for pension reform', Chair, Professor Elsa Formero, University of Turin, 19 October 2017

'Provocations in Law', Melbourne Law School, 27 October 2016

'The Future of Company Tax in Australia', Korea Tax Research Forum, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 10-13 November 2016

'Coordination and the fight against tax havens', Commentator on Kai Konrad, University of Sydney, Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance, 29 November 2016

'Perspectives: Future directions in corporate tax', The Tax Institute, Financial Services Conference, 8-10 February 2017

'Double tax treaties and the multilateral instrument', The Tax Institute 32nd National Convention, Adelaide, 17 March 2017 (with Peter Godber)

'Taxes and Transfers and Gender Analysis', Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra 21 March 2017

'Fiscal Policy and Public Health', World Congress of Public Health, Melbourne, 6 April 2017

'Company Tax Reform Options', Melbourne Economic Forum on Company Taxation, 11 April 2017

'Company Tax', Grattan Institute, State Library, Melbourne, 11 April 2017

'Tax and Welfare Policy,' Asia Pacific Women Judges Association Annual Conference, Sydney, 27-28 April 2017

ABC Q&A broadcast, 15 May 2017

'Reflections on the 2017 Budget', National Press Club, Women in Economics, Canberra, 16 May 2017

Post-Budget Public Forum, 16 May 2017

'What's next on the horizon? Post-budget policy analysis', Sir Roland Wilson Foundation, 25 May 2017

'Tax and transfers', Centre for Social Research and Methods, PolicyMod, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, 2 June 2017

### **Peter Whiteford**

'Inequality and Inclusive Growth in Rich Countries: Shared Challenges and Contrasting Fortunes', Economics Society of Australia, Canberra, 12 October 2016

'Assessing Developments and Prospects in the Australian Welfare State', OECD, Paris, 16 November 2016

'Decent Work and Economic Growth', Sustainable Development Goals Conference, University of Sydney, 29-30 November 2016

'Reducing Inequality', Sustainable Development Goals Conference, University of Sydney, 29-30 November 2016

## **Media and opinion**

The TTPI Director, Chair and senior faculty played a significant role in public debate and engagement on a wide range of budgetary, tax and transfer policy topics throughout the year. Selected contributions to media, public debate and opinion from TTPI academic faculty are listed below.

On 23 November 2016 the ANU Vice-Chancellor's Award for Public Policy and outreach was awarded to the Federal Election 2016 Team; Strategic Communications & Public Affairs and ANU Colleges of Arts & Social Sciences, Asia & the Pacific, Business & Economics, Engineering & Computer Science, Law, Medicine, Biology & Environment, and Physical & Mathematical Sciences. Recipients of this group award included TTPI staff and fellows, Dr John Hewson, Professor Miranda Stewart, and Professor Peter Whiteford.

### **Selected media**

May 15, 2016, 'Direct Action Not Giving us Bang for our Buck on Climate Change', *The Conversation*, by Paul Burke

July 14, 2016, 'Election 2016: A lesson in the politics of superannuation policy,' *Australian Financial Review*, by Emily Millane

July 15, 2016, 'A basic income, or the end of welfare?' *Asia & the Pacific Policy Society Policy Forum*, by Peter Whiteford

29 July 2016, Labor Senator Jenny McAllister calls for party to back parental leave superannuation policy, ABC News, by Eliza Borrello (Miranda Stewart comments)

August 30, 2016, 'FactCheck Q&A: is a week's worth of Newstart equal to what a politician can claim for one night in Canberra?' *The Conversation*, by Peter Whiteford

September 9, 2016, Where to for welfare? *Inside Story*, by Peter Whiteford and Daniel Nethery

November 3, 2016, 'Should the Treasurer be worried about the number of 'zero net taxpayers'?' *The Sydney Morning Herald*, by Peter Whiteford and Miranda Stewart

November 22, 2016, 'Australia must catch up with Papua New Guinea on how we tax gas', *The Conversation*, by Diane Kraal

January 3, 2017, 'The pension is a victim of the great Australian muddle,' *The Age*, by Emily Millane

January 11, 2017, 'Note to Centrelink: Australian workers' lives have changed', *The Conversation*

January 18, 2017, 'Do eight men really control the same wealth as the poorest half of the global population?', *The Conversation*.

February 9, 2017, 'Omnibus welfare bill shows the always-tricky politics of budget savings', *The Conversation*

February 15, 2017, 'FactCheck: is Australia on track to have the oldest pension age in the developed world?', *The Conversation*

February 27, 2017, 'Timing it wrong: benefits, income tests, overpayments and debts', *Inside Story*, by Peter Whiteford & Jane Millar

March 10, 2017, 'Them' and 'us': the enduring power of welfare myths', *Inside Story*.

April 12, 2017, 'Consider Republicans' tax plan, says economist Ross Garnaut', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, by Patrick Hatch, (Miranda Stewart comments)

April 18, 2017, 'Budget explainer: has there been a blowout in social security and welfare spending?', *The Conversation*

April 20, 2017, 'Australia could follow US with any corporate tax changes', *The Constant Investor*, by Alan Kohler (Miranda Stewart interview)

April 26, 2017, 'Global oil giant Chevron loses to Australian Tax Office in landmark tax case', Xinhuanet by Will Koulouris, (Miranda Stewart comments)

May 11, '2017 Budget 2017: welfare changes stigmatise recipients and are sitting on shaky ground', *The Conversation*

May 15, 2017, 'Budget, Surplus and Debt', ABC TV program Q&A with panelists Simon Birmingham, Chris Bowen, Miranda Stewart, Larissa Waters and Innes Willox

June 6, 2017, 'The study that shows life is a lot more unequal than you (probably) think', *The Guardian*, by Chris Hoy

June 12, 2017, 'FactCheck Q&A: are rates of drug use 2.5 times higher among unemployed people than employed people?' *The Conversation*

June 27, 2017, 'Happy Birthday GST - time to grow up and tax more food', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, by Michael Pascoe (reference to Mathias Sinning and Syed Hasan working paper)

## John Hewson

**Asia and the Pacific Policy Society**, PolicyForum.net/

> Picking elections is a mug's game, 2 July 2016

> Making change mean something, 22 July 2016

> Too little, too late?, 2 August 2016

> Growth: a curate's egg, 12 September 2016

> Real leadership can tackle climate challenge, 23 January 2017

3 July 2016, 'Economic policy challenges will swamp our election outcome, no matter who ends up winning', *The Conversation*

5 July 2016, 'The LNP and ALP must form a coalition of a different kind', *The Huffington Post Australia*

20 July 2016, 'Lessons from the election', *The Conversation*

18 August 2016, 'Hewson calls for renewable energy and a coal ban', *Southern Highland News*

5 September 2016, 'Can, or should, we save ARENA?' *The Conversation*

8 September 2016, 'Can sweeping reform of the political donations system become a reality?' ABC Lateline, Matt Wordsworth hosts a panel discussion featuring former federal Liberal Leader John Hewson, ACTU Secretary Dave Oliver and Professor of Political Science John Warhurst

8 September 2016, 'Political donations: Coalition, Labor 'dumb' if they ignore calls for reform', John Hewson says, ABC online

9 September 2016, ABC Lateline, Late Debate, John Hewson, Dave Oliver, John Warhurst, 9 September 2016

18 September 2016, 'Budget repair 'spit in the ocean'', 7News, Colin Brinsden, AAP Economics Correspondent, (John Hewson comments),

20 September 2016, 'Turnbull should drive a regional refugee solution', *The Conversation*

29 September 2016, 'SA blackout politics overshadow the real issues on power generation', *The Conversation*

13 October 2016, 'Have we seen the death of the conviction politician?' *The Sydney Morning Herald*

20 October 2016, 'Our leaders have forgotten how to deliver effective government', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

27 October 2016, 'There's an obvious way for Malcolm Turnbull to beat the politics of fear: leadership', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

6 November 2016, Karvelas, Sky News Podcast (politics and an insight into the week ahead) John Hewson, Brendan O'Connor, James Pearson, Janine Dixon

17 November 2016, 'John Hewson on the negativity of opposition politics', *The Saturday Paper*, by Mike Secombe

1 December 2016, 'Guess what Malcolm? Voters don't care about your big wins', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

4 December 2016, 'Australia will lose triple-A credit rating', says former Liberal leader John Hewson, *The Guardian*



2 January 2017, 'John Hewson says Malcolm Turnbull must pull backbenchers into line', *The Australian*, by Sam Buckingham-Jones

5 January 2017, 'Beware the 'new conservatives' motivated by ambition and ego', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

14 January 2017, 'We haven't learnt anything from the rise of Trump and Brexit', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

2 February 2017, 'Turnbull's energy game-changer', *The Conversation*

24 February 2017, 'Career politicians aren't qualified to run the country', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

3 March 2017, 'The major parties have one way to beat Pauline Hanson, but so far they're not up to the challenge' *The Sydney Morning Herald*

10 March 2017, 'The risk is greater than the GFC if we can't fix the housing crisis', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

22 March 2017, Property bubble called by economist and former Liberal leader John Hewson, ABC News/Lateline, by Michael Janda

16 April 2017, 'John Hewson says \$1bn loan to Adani the 'last thing' Coalition should be doing', *The Guardian*, by Gareth Hutchens

17 April 2017, 'Hewson questions ditching deficit levy', SBS News

20 April 2017, 'The budget is too important to be hijacked by clever politics', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

23 April 2017, 'Fake news, politicians' dishonesty skewing climate debate', John Hewson warns, ABC Online

28 April 2017, 'Australia is at the mercy of the whims of two mad men', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

3 May 2017, Politics podcast: John Hewson on the budget climate, *The Conversation's* politics podcast with Michelle Grattan

18 May 2017, 'It's time for a mature and apolitical welfare debate', *The Canberra Times*

15 June 2017, 'John Hewson: Politicians must see bigger picture when debating power supplies', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

29 June 2017, 'First rule of politics is to show you can govern yourselves', *The Sydney Morning Herald*

#### **Southern Highland News, Hewson's View:**

- > Scare, but to what end?, 8 July 2016
- > Interest rates - too little too late, 29 July 2016
- > Future shaky after 2016; the year of living unexpectedly, 3 January 2017
- > Economic optimism ignores potential risks, 19 January 2017
- > When the budget numbers just don't add up, 16 February 2017
- > Europe may trump Trump in a looming year of fear, 23 February 2017
- > Policy all at sea while polities float on polls, 16 March 2017

- > Future shaky after 2016; the year of living unexpectedly, 3 January 2017
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- > Europe may trump Trump in a looming year of fear, 23 February 2017
- > Policy all at sea while polities float on polls, 16 March 2017
- > Future global direction has never been harder to pick, 13 April 2017
- > Clearly, our politics are being Trumped, 20 April 2017
- > Government peddle false hope for our economy, 27 April 2017
- > Turnbull out to reposition himself after poor polling, 5 May 2017
- > Broader GST better than myriad tax increases, 29 June 2017

## **Austaxpolicy.com blog and @Austaxpolicy**

To achieve our goal of informing and influencing public debate about new evidence, research and thinking about tax and transfer policy, in December 2015 TTPI launched the Austaxpolicy Blog at Austaxpolicy.com and accompanying Twitter account, @Austaxpolicy. Austaxpolicy is edited by Miranda Stewart and Mathias Sinning, with editorial support by Shuchita Pota and Teck Chi Wong.

Austaxpolicy features insight and analysis from experts of all disciplines writing on tax and welfare, budget policy, intergovernmental financial relations and public finance. Austaxpolicy publishes blog articles from academic and policy experts across a range of disciplines and topics in the field, including regular contributions from staff and fellows at TTPI. As well as publishing leading Australian and international experts, Austaxpolicy supports early career researchers and PhD students to present their research to a wider audience.

The year 2016-2017 was our first full year of operation for the blog and it has been a year of significant growth, exposure and public value. From 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, 61 authors contributed 70 articles to Austaxpolicy. The blog had 9,997 visitors and 23,588 page views during the year. Our top article for the year was by Professor John Freebairn of the University of Melbourne, 'Who benefits from a lower corporate income tax rate?', 21 Sep 2016, which received 1186 hits.

Half of Austaxpolicy blog readers hail from Australia, but we also have numerous readers from the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, Canada, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, New Zealand and Germany. During the year, our blog articles were referred to by leading journalists including:

- > Reforming the GST on Food in Australia – Part 1: Costs and Benefits, Syed Hasan & Mathias Sinning, referenced by Michael Pascoe, 26 June 2017, 'Happy birthday, GST – time to grow up and tax more food' (*Sydney Morning Herald*)

- > Malice or Misunderstanding? Government's Carbon Price Under-Compensation, David Plunkett, referenced by Peter Martin, 28 June 2016, 'Election 2016: Pensioners and the unemployed pay for our election giveaways' (*Sydney Morning Herald*); and Lenore Taylor, 'Coalition should not target poorest for budget repair, says peak welfare group, 15 June 2016 (*The Guardian*)

Many of our Austaxpolicy readers come from Twitter. Our twitter handle, @Austaxpolicy, expanded our following to 536 during the year and tweeted 608 times. Our largest tweet impressions were during the May 2017 Budget Forum, when we received 44,102 impressions. This is nearly four times the impressions from the previous year.

#### **Austaxpolicy articles in 2016-2017**

**Azpitarte, F and Herault, N** Australian Fiscal Policy and Income Inequality: Recent Trends, 18 September 2016

**Barrett, J** Basic Welfare: Can We Stop Defending Labour?, 23 March 2017

**Bayer, R** The Occurrence of Tax Amnesties: Theory and Evidence, 11 October 2016

**Biddle, N** Budget Forum 2017: A Budget That Invests in Evidence?, 12 May 2017

**Byrne, G** Tobacco and Alcohol: A Taxing Double Standard, 22 June 2017

**Chapman, B** Justice in the Collection of Fines, 13 July 2016

**Chapman, B** Budget Forum 2017: Changes to HECS-HELP and University Funding, 15 May 2017

**Chohan, U** How do we Measure the Success of Legislative Budget Offices?, 24 October 2016

**Chohan, U** The European Fiscal Board: Challenges and Opportunities, 27 February 2017

**Chohan, U** Improving Budget Processes in the Pacific: Research from Fiji, 20 March 2017

**Chohan, U** The Use of the Survey Instrument in a Legislative Budget Office Context, 18 April 2017

**Chohan, U** Could Other Countries Learn from Australia's Charter of Budget Honesty?, 13 June 2017

**Christian, H Grant, B** Participatory Budgeting: The Next 'Big Thing' in Australian Local Government?, 2 February 2017

**Costa, M** Gender Responsive Budgeting at the OECD, 3 August 2016

**Dabner, J** Coalition's "Emissions Trading Scheme" Commences, 19 August 2016

**Dabner, J** Australian Tax Controversies and Human Rights, 8 September 2016

**Eberhartinger, E, Amberger, H, and Kasper, M** Tax Rate Biases in Tax Planning Decisions: Experimental Evidence, 6 July 2016

**Eberhartinger, E, Amberger, H, and Kasper, M** Tax Rate Biases in Tax Planning Decisions: Experimental Evidence, 6 July 2016

**Elkins, R and Schurer, S** Introducing a GP Copayment in Australia: Who Would Carry the Cost Burden?, 14 March 2017

**Emery, J** Budget Forum 2017: 'Black Economy' a Timely New Focus for Tax Integrity Measures, 26 May 2017

**Fisher, L and Kingston, G** Is Treasury Still Too Optimistic About Revenue?, 27 March 2017

**Freebairn, J** Who Benefits from a Lower Corporate Income Tax Rate?, 21 September 2016

**Freebairn, J** Budget Forum 2017: Who Will Wear the Bank Levy?, 18 May 2017

**Gemmell, N** We Need to Know more About Taxpayer Responses to Tax Changes: The New Zealand Perspective, 28 November 2016

**Hasan, S and Sinning, M** Reforming the GST on Food in Australia – Part 1: Costs and Benefits, 19 June 2017

**Hasan, S and Sinning, M** Reforming the GST on Food in Australia – Part 2: Build Your Own Tax Reform, 26 June 2017

**Hashimzade, N** Tax Avoidance: Rational Ignorance of Law, 6 June 2017

**Hewson, J** Budget 2017: The budget is too important to be hijacked by clever politics, 8 May 2017

**Hewson, J** Budget Forum 2017: Federal Budget is Politically Pragmatic But Economically Risky, 15 May 2017

**Ingles, D and Stewart, M** Does It Pay to Work? – The Case of a Single Parent with 4 Children, 24 January 2017

**Ingles, D and Stewart, M** Budget Forum 2017: Bank Levy – A Tax in Search of a Rationale, 12 May 2017

**Kayis-Kumar, A** Navigating BEPS: Simulating a 'Tax-Minimising' Multinational's Responses to Existing and Proposed Thin Capitalisation Regimes, 16 August 2016

**Kudrna, G** Means Testing Public Pensions: A Policy Option for an Ageing Population, 22 February 2017

**Kumru, C** Annuity and Estate Taxation in an Entrepreneurship Model, 7 October 2016

**Mann, R** Why American Infrastructure Gets a "D+" and What Can be Done, 28 April 2017

**Millane, E** Election 2016: A Lesson in the Politics of Superannuation Policy, 25 July 2016

**Millane, E** 2016 Budget Superannuation Reforms, 19 December 2016

**Millane, E** The Petroleum Resource Rent Tax 1987: The Process of Reform and Implications for Taxation of Petroleum Resources Today, 6 March 2017

**Millane, E** Budget Forum 2017: No Super Fix to Housing, or to Super, 17 May 2017



**Millar, J and Whiteford, P** Timing It Wrong: Benefits, Income Tests, Overpayments and Debts, 2 March 2017

**Mortimore, A** Will Cars Go Green under the ACT's Reformed Vehicle Purchase Tax?, 3 April 2017

**Mukherjee, S** An Update of GST in India, 8 June 2017

**Jone, M** Tax Dispute Systems Design in the Context of the Australian Taxation Office's Reinvention Program, 29 June 2017

**Ong, R** Budget Forum 2017/Women in Economics: Housing in Budget 2017-18, 30 May 2017

**Park, D, Aizenman, J, Kim, J and Jinjarak, Y** Tax Revenue Trends in Asia and Latin America: A Comparative Analysis, 21 July 2016

**Pearce, J and Makin, T** Tackling Australia's Public Debt Problem, 8 December 2016

**Pincus, J** Grattan Institute's Case for Sugar Tax Is Not Proven 1 May 2017

**Podger, A** Completing the Reform Journey to Adequate, Secure And Sustainable Retirement Incomes for All Australians, 1 November 2016

**Potter, M** US Republican Tax Plan: The Potentially Dire Impact on US Retailing, 20 February 2017

**Rabui, M** First Inclusive Framework Meeting on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, 24 August 2016

**Regan, S** An Interview with Professor Jane Millar, OBE, 15 February 2017

**Sinning, M** Budget Forum 2017: Back to Surplus?, 18 May 2017

**Sampford, C and Breakey, H** Is Paying Tax Part of the Social License to Operate?, 11 July 2016

**Stewart, M, Ingles, D, Pota, S and Thomas, S** Election 2016: Tax Policies of the Major Parties Part I, 2 July 2016

**Stewart, M, Ingles, D, Pota, S and Thomas, S** Election 2016: Tax Policies of the Major Parties Part II, 2 July 2016

**Stewart, M** The Contradictions of International Tax, 11 August 2016

**Stewart, M** Gender Neutral Policies are a Myth: Why We Need a Women's Budget, 15 September 2016

**Stewart, M** Budget Forum 2017/Women in Economics: Tax, Transfers and Budget Fairness, 30 May 2017

**Stewart, M** New Tax Treaty Will Close Loopholes That Allow Multinationals to Avoid Tax, 16 June 2017

**Tran, C** Facing Demographic Challenges: Pension Cuts or Tax Hikes?, 29 September 2016

**Tran, C and Wende, S** Budget Forum 2017: The Excess Burden of Company Tax, 11 May 2017

**Varela, P** Notes from the IIPF Annual Congress, 14 September 2016

**Varela, P** Should Indirect Tax Policy Ever be Concerned with Equity? – A Comment on the Policy Relevance of Atkinson-Stiglitz (1976), 5 December 2016

**Whiteford, P** Should We Be Worried About "Zero Net Taxpayers"?, 4 November 2016

**Whiteford, P** A Related Concept: Net Tax Thresholds, 7 November 2016

**Whiteford, P** Zero Net Taxpayers: How Does Australia Compare?, 14 November 2016

**Whiteford, P** The Dynamics of "Zero Net Taxpayers": A Lifecycle and Risk Perspective, 21 November 2016

**Whiteford, P** "Them" and "Us": The Enduring Power of Welfare Myths, 17 March 2017

**Whiteford, P** Budget Forum 2017: Welfare Changes Stigmatise Recipients and Are Sitting on Shaky Ground, 22 May 2017

**Wong, T** The 'Netflix Tax': What Can We Learn from the EU-MOSS Scheme?, 9 January 2017

**Wood, D** Budget Forum 2017/Women in Economics: Federal Budget Reflections, 30 May 2017

**Wood, G and Ong, R** Negative Gearing, the Capital Gains Discount and the Stability of Housing Markets, 13 November 2016

# EDUCATION

Staff, fellows and visitors associated with TTPI teach in a range of graduate and executive education courses of relevance to public finance. Our aim in 2017-2018 is to build on our existing high quality public finance graduate and executive education courses to deliver the new Public Finance major in the Crawford Master of Public Policy, which will be unique in Australia and the region. In addition, TTPI staff and fellows build advanced research capacity in the field through supervising a large number of PhD students in diverse disciplines, researching topics on public finance, tax and transfers. Our PhD students are listed on page thirteen under "People".

## Master degree programs

The Crawford School of Public Policy delivers world-class graduate degree programs in public policy, founded in research-led teaching, adapted to changing demands from public policy concerns and student needs, including the flagship Master of Public Administration, Public Policy, and International and Development Economics. TTPI staff and fellows offered public finance, tax and transfer courses in these degree programs. Our public finance students are drawn from federal, state and territory governments in Australia and from departments of finance in numerous countries in the Asia-Pacific region including Indonesia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Bhutan and Papua New Guinea as well as Latin America, Africa and Europe. Selected courses relevant to the specialisation are listed below. More information about the subjects available and Master degrees is at <https://crawford.anu.edu.au/study/graduate-degrees>.

### Public Finance: Fiscal Policy, Globalization and Development

POGO8048

Professor Miranda Stewart

This course is aimed at students who are interested in fiscal policy including tax and expenditure law, and policy concerning how to fund government effectively. It examines the key challenges of fiscal policy in achieving sufficient revenues, economic prosperity and development, and in addressing social justice and inequality in a context of globalisation.

The course provides an introduction to public finance law and policy; tax policy principles; and tax reform and law design principles. We then examine several topical case studies of particular fiscal systems and tax or expenditure reforms or policies in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The subject takes a critical approach to examining the principles, processes and outcomes of fiscal policy. Students do not need to have a detailed knowledge of tax law or economics to do this subject.

### Social Policy, Society and Change

POGO8024

Professor Peter Whiteford

This course focuses on the social policy experience of countries in the majority world, aiming to introduce participants to the ideas and institutions that shape social policy and the drivers for change. The course is divided into four broad streams.

The first explores the purpose of social policy, recognising that social policy operates within broad community and social structures. The theories and philosophies that underlie social policy will also be examined within this stream. The second stream asks what determines the nature of a country's social welfare system. For example, what is the influence of different institutional arrangements (i.e. federalism vs unitary states), and different cultural, historical or religious traditions. The third stream identifies the key actors involved in developing social policy priorities and delivering services, exploring the relationship between them. The fourth stream examines the drivers of change in social policy, asking under what circumstances does social policy change (i.e. demographic shifts; economic and/or social crisis; regime change) and what role do NGOs and communities play in driving change?

### Principles of Social Policy

POGO8084

Professor Peter Whiteford

This course aims to provide an introduction to the main principles of social policy in a comparative context as a foundation for further studies in the social policy area. It discusses the parameters of social policy and how social policy intersects with other aspects of government policy, such as labour policy, taxation policy and health policy. It analyses varying models of social welfare provision and social protection as well as fundamental policy issues, such as the merits of targeting versus universality, horizontal versus vertical equity, and rights-based versus discretionary entitlements. The course then considers social protection in the context of key groups of potential beneficiaries, including the unemployed, children and families, retirees, and the indigenous. Emphasis is on a comparative approach, comparing Australian social policy with that of other OECD countries and of other countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

### Economics for Government

POGO8081

Professor Robert Breunig

This subject seeks to provide a policy officer's or public sector manager's guide to basic economic principles and their application to public sector activities. To achieve this, the subject will:

- > emphasize the nature of decision making by individuals, firms and governments and their effect on the allocation of resources. The idea of the efficiency of resource allocation will be emphasised and developed. This will be achieved by providing concrete examples and applications.
- > ensure participants understand the nature and role of markets. This is done by providing an overview of basic economic principles. This will take the form of introduction to the basic language, methods, concepts and frameworks that underpin economic reasoning and logic. This will mostly cover supply and demand of markets (microeconomics), though we will also touch on measurement, growth and operation of the aggregate economy (macroeconomics).

- > ensure participants understand the economic role of government. This will be achieved by providing a framework for understanding both the strengths and limits of markets as a form of social organisation and for identifying the precise nature of market failure, the objectives of public policy and the form of intervention, including via regulation, service provision, and redistribution.
- > understand the nature of the economic way of thinking, through developing frameworks for determining the relative roles of market and state. This will be done by way of providing particular economic problems as illustrations and by conveying the nature of the tool-kit that the economic profession brings to examination of issues, both economic and beyond economics.

### **Public Sector Ethics**

POGO8021

Emeritus Professor Richard Mulgan

How can public leaders exercise ethical leadership, and how can we promote clean government, given the many excuses for 'dirty hands' made by government leaders? This course provides students with an introduction to debates over public sector ethics, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of public servants and their relationships to politicians and others sharing public power. The unit uses practical examples and case studies of ethical problems from across the public sector, blending Australian and international material so that students can learn from a variety of policy frameworks appropriate to the regulation of public conduct. Students will examine core theories of ethics with the aim of relating these to prevailing theories of public policy and practices of public administration. They will also examine various approaches to codifying and enforcing public sector ethics.

### **The Economic Way of Thinking 1**

POGO8016

Dr Shiro Armstrong

Microeconomics examines how consumers and firms make decisions under conditions of scarcity and how they interact with each other in markets. It also examines the effects of government policy and actions on market outcomes. The economic way of thinking provides a decision-making framework for individuals, corporate managers, and policy-makers. This course aims to provide students with a solid understanding of basic microeconomic principles and the ability to apply those tools and ideas. Topics include comparative advantage, consumer and firm decision-making, supply and demand, market structure, international trade, and market failure.

### **Making and Evaluating Policy**

POGO8090

Associate Professor Carolyn Hendriks

This course is concerned with how public policies are made, implemented and evaluated. It introduces students to central debates in policy studies and examines concepts, models and tools for making and evaluating policy programs. We will

consider various actors involved in the policy making process, and the institutional and ideational structures within which they typically operate. We will also reflect on how values and interests influence what policy issues get attention, and how they shape decisions, outcomes and evaluation procedures. Throughout the course scholarly debates are combined with practical examples from Australia and abroad.

### **Organisational Finance and Budgeting**

POGO8080

Emeritus Professor Keith Houghton

The course provides a user perspective on the role of financial reporting and analysis of organisations in a public sector context and budgeting with such organisations. Through a series of seminars, case studies and exercises, you will acquire confidence in using the concepts and vocabulary of accounting and finance, and an ability to analyse organisational performance and resource allocation. You will become familiar with the format and use of financial statements and the role of accounting in making decisions

### **Policy Advocacy**

POGO8083

Dr Amanda Smullen

Policy Advocacy is a graduate course in policy communication, requiring no specialist knowledge or experience of public policy or administration. The course examines strategies and tactics used by policy advocates inside and outside government when marshalling argument and evidence to promote their preferred outcomes. The course is designed to strengthen students' understanding of the nature of advocacy and of place of policy advocacy in the policy process. The course materials draw on many disciplines: rhetoric, philosophy, policy analysis and public administration. Examples include many Australian, as well as international and transnational cases, but the aim is more general: to stimulate learning about the many ways that policy advocacy is pursued and seeks to shape policy choice, especially in political systems with open forms of deliberative democracy.

### **Empirical Public Finance**

IDEC8025

Associate Professor Mathias Sinning

This course is an introduction to the economic analysis of incentives generated by tax systems and income transfer programs. The emphasis is on understanding how, and the extent to which, individuals and firms react to those policies - the central question addressed in the growing field of empirical public finance. The discussion on key design elements of those policies are expected to foster students' understanding of important trade-offs involved in implementing government policies. It covers the following topics: tax incidence, efficiency and optimal taxation, income taxation and labour supply, taxes on consumption, taxes on savings, taxes on investment and corporate taxation. Examples are drawn from taxes and income transfer programs implemented in Australia and internationally.

Particular attention will be paid to the application of quasi-experimental methods to public finance. By reading articles that apply quasi-experiments for each topic, students are expected to develop a practical understanding of issues involved in taking econometric models to the real world. Students will be exposed to varieties of estimation techniques.

### Managing Government Finances

POGO8057

Professor John Wanna

The course aims to give students a basis for considering the environment in which public sector managers operate as it bears on their management of public financial resources. The course investigates the roles carried out by managers in government agencies in managing public financial resources, and the political and administrative setting in which government finances are managed. It steers between:

- > the methodologies of financial decision-making and analysis
- > description or analysis of the Australian government system, and
- > development in public sector financial management theory and practice.

### International visit from Indiana-Bloomington College undergraduates: Public Finance

In June 2017, TTPI hosted 20 undergraduate students from the University of Indiana-Bloomington, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, which is the top ranked public affairs program in the United States. The School is known for its top-ranked public finance and budgeting degree program.

Led by Associate Professor Justin Ross of Indiana University and PhD student Sian Mughan, a previous exchange visitor to TTPI, the students took the international course offering Public Finance as part of their major in public finance. Miranda Stewart and Mathias Sinning taught into the international program.

The visit was supported by the Australian National University – University of Indiana-Bloomington Exchange Program. The students learned about Australia's political system and federation, as well as tax policy and public finance from an international perspective. They visited the Parliamentary Budget Office in Parliament House and completed their studies in connection with research networks in Sydney and James Cook University in Cairns after their sojourn in Canberra.

## Executive education and other teaching

Staff and fellows of TTPI have contributed to popular one and two-day Executive Education courses delivered in-house to government departments and agencies and in the leading Executive Education program at Crawford School, as well as presentations and lectures in various visits and courses. Professor Miranda Stewart also taught a short course on Taxation, Government and Inequality at the University of Toronto Law School, Canada.

The executive education and training provided by TTPI was:

*Think Tank*, Chifley Research Centre & ALP/ANU, 28 July 2016, Miranda Stewart (29 July 2016)

*Taxes, Transfers and EMTRs*, Department of Social Services, Miranda Stewart and Peter Whiteford (7 September 2016)

*Economics of Labour Markets*, Mathias Sinning (November 2016)

*Tax Policy Foundations*, Department of the Treasury, Miranda Stewart (February 2017)

*Executive Training Program on Strengthening Public Policy Making*, Senior Staff of the Ministry of Finance in Sri Lanka, Miranda Stewart, Mathias Sinning and Ben Phillips (March 2017)

*Gender analysis of public policy*, Miranda Stewart and Monica Costa (June 2017)



Indiana Bloomington College students



**Fund No:** S5335501  
**Project:** DoT - Establishment of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute

**Donor Ref:**  
**Chief Investigator:** Robert Breunig

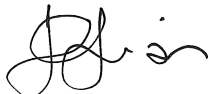
**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
For the Period 01 July, 2016 to 30 June, 2017**

	<b>Current Period</b>
	<b>\$</b>
<b>Unspent Balance as at 01 July, 2016</b>	<b>35,055.96</b>
<b><u>Add</u></b>	
Income from Executive Education and Contracts	23,494.55
Transfer from TTPI Endowment Fund	410,000.00
Services Provided to ANU	4,696.00
Contribution from Crawford School	18,902.67
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>457,093.22</b>
<b>Total Available Funds Before Expenditure</b>	<b>\$492,149.18</b>
<b><u>Less</u></b>	
Salaries & Related Costs	404,842.88
Travel Field & Survey Expenses	24,652.30
Consultancies	37,053.20
Consumables	1,032.94
Internal Purchases	4,590.71
Other Expenses	11,541.19
Transfers to other	1,042.88
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>484,756.10</b>
<b>Unspent Balance as at 30 June, 2017</b>	<b>\$7,393.08</b>
<b>Crawford School Contributions</b>	<b>\$777,099.00</b>

**\*Endowment report attached**

I certify the following statements:

- (i) all funding, Crawford School Contributions and any other third party contributions provided to the TTPI have been spent or used in accordance with the Grant Arrangement;
- (ii) the Crawford School has complied with the Grant Arrangement; and
- (iii) the financial statements are accurate.



Professor Helen Sullivan  
Director  
Crawford School of Public Policy

Fund No: E5397401  
Project: Tax and Transfer Policy Institute

Donor Ref:  
Chief Investigator:

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**  
**For the Period 01 July, 2016 to 30 June, 2017**

	Current Period \$
Unspent Balance as at 01 July, 2016	3,275,371.97
<b>Add</b>	
Investment Income	47,222.39
Total Income	47,222.39
Total Available Funds Before Expenditure	\$3,322,594.36
<b>Less</b>	
Transfer to TTPI S Fund	410,000.00
Total Expenditure	410,000.00
Unspent Balance as at 30 June, 2017	\$2,912,594.36



# CONTACT US

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