

The Summer 1999/2000 and Autumn 2000 issues of *Policy* have been released this year.

Summer 1999/2000 includes essays on the need for a constitution by Suri Ratnapala, alternatives to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission by Des Moore, and reflections on the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Autumn 2000 features an article by three Filipino academics who investigate the root cause of the Asian crisis and look at how new institutional structures are slowly being forged in the region. Also, three Vice-Chancellors from Australia's leading universities take a long hard look at our ailing higher education sector, and Gerard Radnitzky takes a fresh look at Hayek's political philosophy from a radical libertarian perspective.

Past issues of *Policy* are available for viewing at www.cis.org.au



issue analysis

SHOOTING THE MESSENGER: A CRITIQUE OF AUSTRALIA'S INTERNET CONTENT REGULATION REGIME

Heath Gibson

This latest offering from the *Issue Analysis* series takes a look at new Australian Internet legislation and examines the pros and cons of the proposed laws.

Heath Gibson, a PhD student at the University of Newcastle, argues that new legislation designed to increase censorship on the Net must be open to further review to avoid unnecessary social and financial costs.

Shooting the Messenger also looks at other issues inherent in the Internet debate, including how increased censorship on the Net would affect policing methods of undesirable material.



Available for download from www.cis.org.au

policy monographs

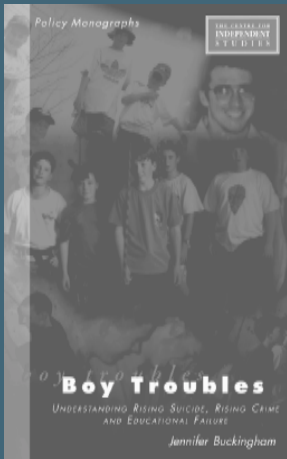
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: How Parents Influence Their Children's Education

Alison Rich

This policy monograph looks at how parents influence the educational outcomes of their children. It outlines three different facets of influence, including parental resources, parental involvement and parental support.

What emerges from the paper is that there needs to be a greater recognition of the role that parents play in the education process. The paper also addresses the educational disadvantage faced by children from disordered families (in particular sole parent families) and attempts to outline some of the potential causes of this disadvantage. Policy recommendations are also given.





BOY TROUBLES: UNDERSTANDING RISING SUICIDE, RISING CRIME AND EDUCATIONAL FAILURE

Jennifer Buckingham

The recent history of boyhood in Australia reveals a variety of troubles. The statistics show that boys are falling behind at school, killing themselves and getting into trouble with the law at ever higher rates, and much more so than girls.

Understanding the problems facing boys entails asking serious questions about some of our major social institutions, such as the family and schooling, which bear much of the responsibility for the early years of children's lives.

Boy Troubles aims, first, to throw some light upon the causes of the changes taking place; second, to offer some recommendations about what might be done to mitigate or reverse what is happening, and to deal more effectively with the consequences.



BEHAVIOURAL POVERTY

Lucy Sullivan

The welfare debate is bedevilled by the failure to distinguish behavioural from financial poverty. The want, squalid living and child suffering we see around us or encounter in media reports are not the result of poverty in its normal sense, but of demoralisation. Their prevalence has increased hand in hand with accelerated welfare expenditure.

Behavioural Poverty highlights the fact that the doctrine that says society needs only to share out its money in order to achieve 'utopia' has been proven false. The earlier belief that competent and responsible behaviour must be shaped by social institutions, with the need to *earn* income playing a central role, is in need of rehabilitation.

This essay is the first of a series of six called *Caught in the Net: Six Essays on Welfare Systems and Family Functioning*.

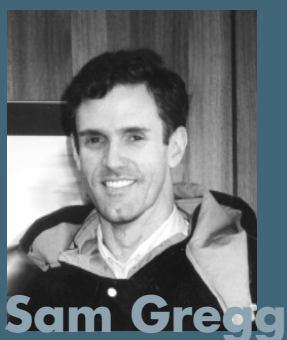


GAMBLES WITH THE ECONOMIC CONSTITUTION: THE RE-REGULATION OF LABOUR IN NEW ZEALAND

Wolfgang Kasper

CIS Senior Fellow Wolfgang Kasper argues that the introduction of the New Zealand Employment Relations Bill, which proposes to re-regulate New Zealand's free labour markets from August 2000, is an attack on civil society and economic freedom.

Australians can learn some very useful lessons from the New Zealand experiment. This turnabout reflects what leaders of Australia's Labor opposition are contemplating, and demonstrates that the reforms of the 1980s and 1990s can easily be overturned, even if their economic results are widely deemed positive.



Sam Gregg

BEYOND ROMANTICISM: QUESTIONING THE GREEN GOSPEL

Samuel Gregg

In this Occasional Paper, Samuel Gregg challenges churches to think more critically about the environmental movement. He examines the philosophical inspirations for the 'Green' movement, underlining where it differs significantly from a Christian outlook.

Beyond Romanticism also raises questions about the adequacy of many Christian pronouncements and commentaries on environmental issues. Too often, Gregg contends, they are characterised by questionable theological premises as well as a tendency to accept uncritical arguments articulated by the green lobby.