

## Media Forum 2000

A regular CIS event until two years ago, the Media Forum 2000 on February 14 revived the CIS tradition of gathering top Australian and New Zealand political and economic commentators to discuss current public policy issues.

This year's panel included:

- Louise Dodson, Canberra Bureau Chief of *The Australian Financial Review*
- Paul Kelly, International Editor of *The Australian*
- Colin James, one of New Zealand's foremost political commentators
- Glenn Milne, Canberra Bureau Chief of *The Seven Network*
- Frank Devine, Columnist for *The Australian*

Each panelist offered some original and insightful comments on the current state of politics and the economy in both Australia and New Zealand.

Discussion ranged from the role of state and local governments in a federal system, Australian bush/city myths and their effect on politics, and the ability/inability of governments to make citizens feel satisfied with life.

*CIS would like to thank Mallesons Stephen Jaques for their support of this event.*

## Education Lunch

From left to right: Jenny Lindsay, Alison Rich, Gillian Guthrie (SBS TV) and Frank Devine

When journalists and CIS researchers get together, the conversation is sure to become interesting.

The Education and Youth Affairs luncheon on February 1 was certainly no exception. Journalists interested in the areas of youth and education were invited to meet with staff from the *TCS* and *L&S* programmes to share knowledge and to create avenues for future contact.

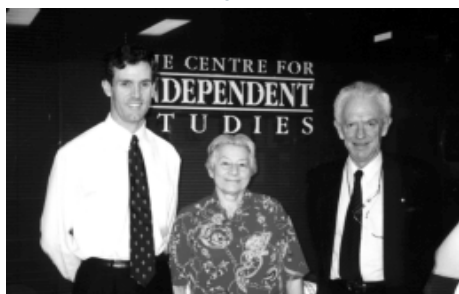
The event, held at an inner-city café, was an enjoyable success with all present participating in lively discussion on current issues in the education field.



## 'Mismeasurement of Nations' seminar

Chief Commonwealth Statistician for many years, Dr Ian Castles has become concerned that false statistics are being used to make the case that income distribution between developed and developing countries, as well as within countries, is worsening throughout the world. He has been particularly critical of the Human Development Report and the United Nations Development Programme.

Ian Castles (right) with Sam Gregg (left) and Helen Hughes (centre)



Dr Castles' view is, of course, contrary to much received wisdom on the subject.

Now Vice-President of the Academy of Social Sciences, Dr Castles explored this subject in a seminar at the CIS offices on February 17.

Representatives from UNICEF, World Vision, Community Aid Abroad, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *ABC* radio, *TIME* Australia, and academics engaged in a wide-ranging intellectual debate, focussing on the responsibility of statisticians to interpret data correctly and the effects of their work on the layperson's ability to interpret world trends.

## Chris Lingle Seminar

CIS Adjunct Scholar Christopher Lingle delivered an occasional lecture in Canberra on March 22, on the topic 'Asia's Economic Rebound: Is it for Real?'. Speaking about the apparent recovery of the East Asian economies, Christopher suggested that, contrary to widely held belief, the countries of East Asia had done little since the 'crisis' of 1997 to rectify the underlying problems of their economies. We might reasonably expect to see ongoing economic problems in the region, he said, unless there is significant strengthening of institutional infrastructure and substantial financial sector reform.

This was the first function to be held in Canberra by CIS for some time, the lecture was co-hosted with economics consulting group, ACIL Consulting.

