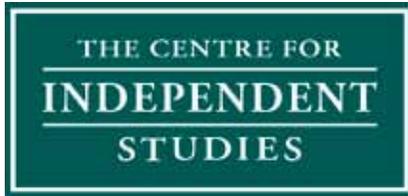


# PréCIS



The Centre for Independent Studies  
**ANNUAL REVIEW 2015**



[cis.org.au](http://cis.org.au)

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# Goals and Aims

## Goals and Aims

***The Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) is Australia's leading independent public policy research think tank.***

***Founded in 1976, the CIS has been a long-standing advocate for the market economy and a free civil society under a democratic government. The CIS promotes a strong civil society in which liberty is paramount, families and education are valued, economic freedom and property rights are assured, and individual responsibility and initiative are encouraged.***

***Through a rigorous research program and wide-ranging event activities, the CIS encourages serious debate among academics, politicians, media and stakeholders with the aim of assisting in the formulation and development of evidence-based policy recommendations for Australia's future prosperity and wellbeing.***

### **The CIS promotes:**

- individual liberty and choice, including freedom of association, religion, speech and the right to property
- an economy based on free markets
- democratic government under the rule of law
- an autonomous and free civil society.

### **The CIS and its research are:**

- funded by private donations—from individuals, companies, charitable trusts and foundations —as well as subscriptions, events and book sales
- politically non-partisan
- driven by the Executive Director and the research team. The CIS does not undertake commissioned research.

Independence is of  
utmost importance to us.

# From the Executive Director

As we head into 2016 we'll be approaching our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. As you might expect, as the Centre's founder, I find myself reflecting on the long term role of the CIS in the public arena and what 40 years has achieved. There are frustrations of course. As a young man, the idea of trying to persuade us to have a smaller government and to live in a society where we took more responsibility for our own lives was a driving force. It still is, but the increasingly, sometimes seductive, Leviathan state seems unstoppable. Still, there have been many achievements and many improvements and by world standards things aren't too bad. There is no room for complacency and in these times of global economic and security uncertainty, the need for the positive work of the CIS should be reinforced to remind and persuade Australians of the importance of economic and social freedom and individual responsibility.

To mark the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday we are having our history written and — during the process of looking at what has happened over those years — I have been continually amazed at the changes that have occurred. In the period up to the 1970s, when CIS was established, Australia and New Zealand were inward-looking countries that embraced protectionism, labour market and far reaching economic regulation, high inflation and — as indicators of the politics of the times — the madness (and occasional vision) of the Whitlam era and later the Muldoon era in New Zealand. The possibility of opening up markets, privatizing enterprises, reducing tariffs, even freeing up shopping hours seemed a long way away in other worlds.

The CIS arrived at the right time. There was a need to sow the seeds and as I have often said 'soften the ground' for reform. We had a part to play in preparing the ideas that led to those dramatic economic reforms of the Hawke/Keating era and beyond, from which we have all benefitted. We might even claim a little credit for some of the ideas that aided the thinking behind some of the Lange/Douglas reforms in New Zealand.

The economic battles continue today, but there is no doubt in my mind that the critical engagements are now in the social policy and cultural areas and of course we have been occupying that space for some time now. Actions to follow ideas take time and are hard to predict. The seduction of state action blinds too many.



The accepted norms of what our society expects an individual, family and community to contribute have dramatically shifted. For example, I think about my grandparents, who would look at receiving a state pension as a sign of personal failure. Today, a pension is considered a right and every attempt to roll back these entitlements is thwarted by interest groups and the growing older population. This can't go on forever and some of our work had been focused on alternatives. Endless discussion about superannuation and taxation doesn't dispel the need for individuals to provide for themselves in retirement and in other ways, such as health care.

At the other end of a working life we need to pay more serious attention to the plight of the young unemployed. There are economic considerations such as the minimum wage and its impact on the employability of young people, but also critical issues such as basic literacy which, in its absence, can lock people out of meaningful and satisfying employment. These are issues that are actively being pursued on the Centre's agenda. Our grandparents understood that work was essential to the wellbeing of an individual, the family and the wider community. A good education and flexible labour markets are some of the keys to full employment, particularly for those starting out on their career journey.

Moreover, the increasingly dire situation for some children who suffer unacceptable levels of abuse and the failure of existing institutions and policies to provide ways out of these conditions consigns too many vulnerable young

people to lives where they may never achieve their potential in work and life more generally – and this is an issue for which CIS has been a leader in urging reform.

In the cultural area I am always banging on about Burke's 'little platoons'

**"To be attached to the subdivision, to love the little platoon we belong to in society, is the first principle (the germ, as it were) of public affections".**

It can be interpreted in differing ways but I see it as meaning that our society starts with small groups – families, volunteer groups, clubs, festivals, businesses, political parties – that can be selfish and selfless at the same time. We need diversity and flexibility in the levels of control and in the distances where decisions are made. Society will atrophy if everything is directed from the centre, no matter where that might be. Part of our ongoing work will be to strengthen the arguments for a vigorous civil society. This diversity means for instance, that free speech is a fundamental institution; that difference is tolerated within the bounds of the rule of law; and that individuals are aware of their responsibilities as citizens and members of a society.

So, after 40 years the mission is still the same.

**'The Centre for Independent Studies seeks to create a better Australian society through ideas, research and advocacy that support individual liberty and responsibility, freedom of enterprise, limited democratic government and the rule of law.'**

There is a constant trialling and changing of the methods of fulfilling our mission. The fax machine will not be coming with us when we move offices in 2016; our use of social media is getting more and more sophisticated; the addition of more targeted programs such as *FIVE from FIVE* and the *Indigenous Prosperity Project* as well as the general research areas will further increase our reach and impact.

I must note at this point that long-serving Chairman of CIS, Michael Darling, stepped down from the position at the November Board meeting and Peter Mason was elected to be the new Chair. Michael stays on the Board, reinforcing the continuity that's characteristic of the Centre throughout its history. Peter is the Centre's fifth Chairman and has had a distinguished career in business and the wider community and I look forward to working with him as we move into the challenging years ahead. Michael Darling has been on the board for almost 30 years and his contribution to the Centre over that time has been considerable.

So almost 40 years on, work still remains. I am proud that the CIS continues to be part of the process of underpinning and building a free, open and prosperous future: one that we can pass on to our children and grandchildren to take further once the foundations are secure.

*Greg Lindsay*

24  
PUBLICATIONS  


POLICY  
3  
Editions of  
POLICY

60  
EVENTS  


2  
LIBERTY & SOCIETY  
STUDENT  
CONFERENCES  


63  
VIDEOS  


9,780  
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS  


120,500  
WEBSITE VISITORS  




1. The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP addresses a Leadership Lunch.
2. Professor Wolfgang Kasper makes a point under the benevolent gaze of an Austrian economist.
3. Then NSW Treasurer The Hon Andrew Constance MP delivers a Leadership Lunch address.
4. Then NSW Minister for Finance and Services The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP gives a Leadership Lunch speech.



## Economics

***Free market economies with limited government involvement have a superior track record of delivering widespread prosperity and human benefit when compared to planned economies. While TARGET30 has been the focus of our research into good fiscal management, we also pursued a large number of research programs addressing improvements to economic policy.***

### Our mission

- Demonstrate the benefits of free trade and deregulation to national prosperity and flourishing
- Reduce taxes and spending
- Encourage competition in service provision by non-government and private providers
- Encourage personal responsibility and self-reliance to limit the growth of the state

### Our program

- Identify opportunities for government to stop waste
- Promote outsourcing and privatisation where competitive markets can be established
- Remove duplication in federal and state governments
- Identify more cost effective models for major spending programs including health

### Reports and submissions

Several important economic research reports were released this year, including *The Age Old Problem of Old Age* on fixing the pension system and *Right or Rort: Dissecting Australia's Tax Concessions*. Prof Wolfgang Kasper published *The Case for a New Australian Settlement: Ruminations of an Inveterate Economist*, arguing that Australia needs a cultural counter-revolution that appeals to the traditional Australian spirit of self-reliance and can-do optimism – a new 'Australian settlement' that goes beyond mere

economic policy. Two further research reports have been recently released 'Youth Unemployment in Australia' by Dr Patrick Carvalho & *Exposing the Stealth Tax: the Bracket Creep rip-off* by Robert Carling and Michael Potter.

The economics team also contributed a number of submissions, including two on tax reform for the Tax White Paper and a thorough review of the Financial System Inquiry.

### National Reform Summit

The CIS was represented on the Steering Committee of the National Reform Summit, helping to bring together the participants for this major policy forum and working on developing the agenda and platform for the eventual Summit Statement.

As part of the summit, Simon Cowan drafted a substantial submission on tax reform, together with Robert Carling and Henry Ergas, arguing against raising taxes and putting forward the case for lower personal income tax and lower company tax.

We also contributed in a number of sessions during the day and were featured heavily in the coverage of the event in the AFR and The Australian newspapers.

### Events and conferences

This year's Consilium saw the debut of a session called 'Talk Amongst Yourselves: The Economists' Conversation', which was an indepth discussion on economic issues for practitioners. Hosted by Dr Patrick Carvalho, the session proved a smash hit and will be repeated and expanded next year.

CIS hosted a roundtable event with Dr Jeffery Young on 'The Teachings of Adam Smith in a contemporary world'.

Members of the economics team also addressed a number of conferences and policy forums including: the Urban Development Institute of Queensland, the Modest Members in Canberra, the Australian Conference of Economists, the Governance Institute in Sydney, the AFR Tax Reform Summit and the University of Queensland Latin America Colloquium.

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## TARGET 30 REDUCING THE BURDEN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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4



1. Jeremy Cooper, Chairman Retirement Income Challenger Limited.
2. ACOSS CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie.
3. CIS Research Fellow and Target30 Program Director Simon Cowan.
4. A full house for the hard discussion.

## TARGET30

***Launched in 2013, the TARGET30 campaign promotes the benefits of smaller government, less official intrusion into people's lives, and the need to cut government spending to less than 30% of GDP by 2023, reducing the financial burden for future generations.***

### **Cornerstone TARGET30 report released**

With the release of the most recent TARGET30 research from the CIS, the TARGET30 program has now covered the main areas of government spending identified in the launch report. Jeremy Sammut has written on hospitals and Medicare, Jennifer Buckingham has examined the future of education spending and Matt Taylor and Simon Cowan have now laid out a blueprint for pension reform.

### **Submissions**

The CIS contributed two submissions to the Tax White Paper process, arguing for lower taxes and again putting forward the case for substantial age pension reform aimed at lowering government spending and increasing pensioner incomes.

The CIS also contributed a submission to the National Reform Summit on lower taxes and smaller government.

### **Reports and publications**

The TARGET30 research report, *The Age Old Problem of Old Age: Fixing the Pension* by Simon Cowan & Matthew Taylor was some time in the making. At 92 pages it was one of the largest CIS research reports produced in recent memory and featured 130 tables, graphs and figures.

The report sparked a strong response from the media, featuring in all major newspapers, with dedicated stories written for The Age (which was syndicated across the Fairfax regional network), the Australian Financial Review and The Australian. Coverage of the research by AAP was also published across all major news sites.

Both authors wrote opinion pieces and did more than a dozen radio and television appearances, including a dedicated segment on Sky News, a segment on ABC's the Drum and a news story on the Channel 10 evening news. Total media mentions exceeded 240 on the first day, accompanied by a spike in pageviews for the CIS website to nearly 4,000.

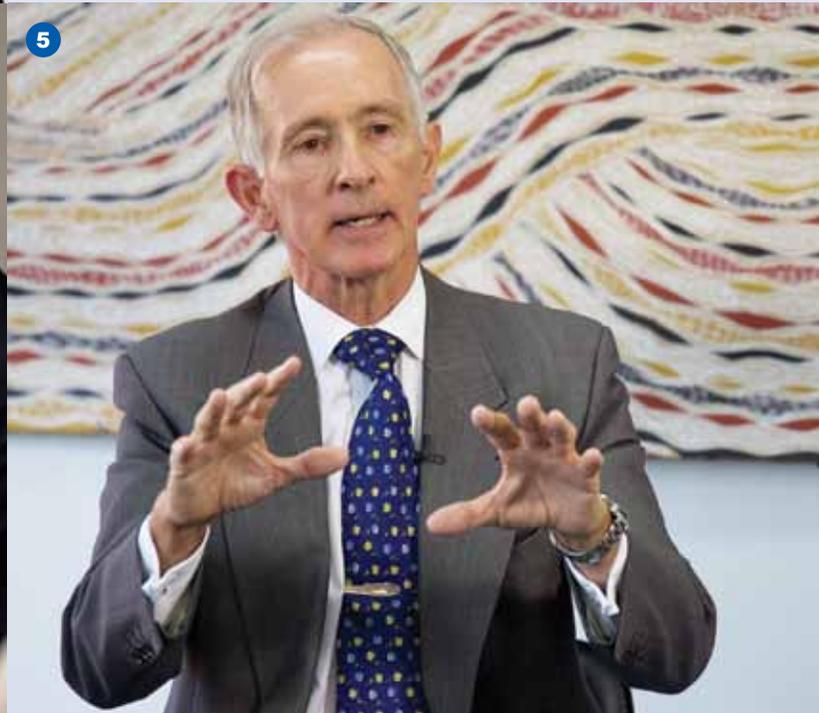
### **Conferences and events**

The release of the seminal CIS work on the age pension has led to a number of invitations for TARGET30 Program Director Simon Cowan to speak at conferences and events. These included the Super Reform and Retirement Income Summit in Melbourne in August, the Sustainable Retirement Incomes leadership forum in June at the invitation of the Committee for Sustainable Retirement Incomes, a Menzies Research Centre event in Sydney in June and the Friedman Conference in May. In addition he will speak alongside Shadow Families and Payments Minister Jenny Macklin at the 2015 Economic and Social Outlook Conference hosted by the Melbourne Institute and The Australian newspaper in early November.

The CIS also hosted a very well-attended event on welfare, bringing together Australian Council of Social Services CEO Dr Cassandra Goldie, Challenger CEO Jeremy Cooper and Simon Cowan to discuss sustainability of pensions and superannuation. The event generated lively discussion and several members commented on how worth while was to host events with contrasting viewpoints and arguing the case for reform with consensus.



1. Dr Mohammed Dajani outlines the Wasatia movement.
2. Constitutional expert Professor James Allan.
3. CIS Policy Analyst Helen Andrews elaborates on Preventative Health.
4. Rohan Mead with NIB CEO Mark Fitzgibbon & Angus Taylor MP at the Health Innovation event.
5. Dr John Graham speaks at the Preventative Health event.
6. Our panel of speakers standing up for free speech (p10).



## Social Foundations

***The Centre's Social Foundations Program has influenced government policy directions and made a significant impact on public perceptions through the media.***

***Health, child protection, welfare, childcare and education issues were at the forefront of CIS research in 2015, with researchers delivering policy proposals and expert commentary that aims to continue shaping the national debate on these issues.***

### Health

*An Ounce of Prevention? A Toolkit for Evaluating Preventive Health Measures*, by Policy Analyst Helen Andrews, rebutted the bad arguments for preventive health schemes. She had the opportunity to present her findings to the Senate Economics References Committee in the CIS's submission to Senator David Leyonhjelm's 'nanny state' inquiry in August.

*Towards A More Competitive Medicare: The Case for De-Regulating Medical Fees and Co-Payments in Australia* by Senior Research Fellow David Gadiel argued the government should get out of the business of trying to set both medical fees and out-of-pocket fees, by instead treating Medicare as a medical benefits system and letting the market and doctors in competition decide how much they charge. The report also suggested that the ACCC might examine the anti-competitive practices of the medical profession, such as the AMA recommended fee list, which may operate as a price fixing mechanism.

Research Fellow Dr Jeremy Sammut gave a presentation at the Health Reform and Innovations conference in

Sydney on the CIS's Health Savings Account Medicare opt-out health reform plan. In September, the CIS held the first in a series of Health Innovation events in Sydney which featured Rohan Mead of Australian Unity, Mark Fitzgibbon of NIB, and Angus Taylor MP.

A series of similar panel events are planned for 2016 on topics including primary care reform, public hospital privatisation, and the future of the PBS. The aim of these events is to help change the conversation about health reform away from a focus on budget savings and emphasise the benefits to consumers and providers of health services of innovation – of doing this differently, and better in health.

Dr Sammut was also appointed by the federal government to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal, and was also invited to join the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Sustainability in Health Care Committee as a community representative.

### Child Protection

Dr Sammut's child protection research demonstrated real impact and received extensive national media coverage when it was extensively cited in the report on the Inquest into the Death of Chloe Valentine by the South Australian Coroner Mark Johns. The Coroner noted that he had been "impressed" by Jeremy's work, and stated that the findings of Jeremy's research "resonates very strongly when one considers the history of Chloe Valentine." Mr Johns also firmly supported Dr Sammut's recommendation that child protection authorities make greater use of adoption. The research was subsequently publicised in media across the nation, including editorials that supported the call for greater use of adoption. The Coroner's report represents a tipping point in the debate about child protection policy, which has been driven in considerable part by Dr Sammut's evidence-based research.



## Childcare and Education

Three key projects have been at the core of childcare and education policy work over the last year – two major research reports and the establishment of the *FIVE from FIVE* literacy campaign.

*Regulating for Quality in Childcare: The Evidence Base*, In Policy Analyst Trisha Jha looked at the national regulatory framework for the childcare sector. She examined the evidence for whether more stringent minimum standards for staff-to-child ratios and staff qualifications were likely to produce socio-emotional and cognitive benefits to children. The report concluded that the evidence was too inconsistent to justify the costly regulations.

*Free to Choose Charter Schools: How charter and for-profit schools can boost public education*, co-authored by Trisha Jha and Research Fellow Dr Jennifer Buckingham, canvassed the empirical literature on charter schools and similar policies around the world. The report made the case for the introduction of charter schools – publicly-funded, privately-managed schools – by state and territory governments as a way of expanding school choice within the public sector.

The report received substantial radio and print media coverage, and upon release the report was well-received among key policy stakeholders.

In July, funding for the *FIVE from FIVE* literacy project was secured after several months of discussions and development. The project aims to ensure that policy and programs in schools reflect the scientific evidence on the most effective way to teach reading, and

eventually reduce illiteracy rates. Work has commenced on the first publications under the program, as well as producing a promotional video, content for the website, and benchmarking the evaluation measures.

Dr Buckingham was appointed to the board of the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) in June this year.

In the child protection area, Dr Sammut at the end of 2015 published a book, *The Madness of Australian Child Protection: Why Adoption Will Rescue Australia's Underclass Children*. The book, which brought together the research contained in Dr Sammut's six child protection research reports published by the CIS between 2009 and 2014, exposes not only the systemic problems in Australian child protection systems, but examines the ideological, institutional and cultural obstacles to changing current practice and lifting the taboo on adoption. Published by Connor Court with the support of SOS Children's Villages Australia, the book features a foreword by founder of Adopt Change and high-profile adoption advocate Deborra-lee Furness. A series of book launch panel events were held in major capital cities, the first of which in Sydney featured notable panelists including Ms Furness and News Corp columnist Miranda Devine.

## Looking forward

Future research in the childcare and education policy area includes work on school choice and diversity, early childhood interventions, and reports and activities emanating from the *FIVE from FIVE* campaign.

## The CIS Indigenous Research Program

***The CIS has been publicly advocating for improving the outcomes of Indigenous Australians since 2004. Our work has spanned health, education, housing, private property rights, criminal justice, child protection and employment policy reform and has had a direct impact on government thinking on Indigenous issues.***

In 2015 CIS welcomed back Research Fellow Sara Hudson (pictured right), a CIS alumni 2008-2013, as manager of the Indigenous Research program. The relaunched program, called 'The Prosperity Project', will continue to look at the issues underpinning Indigenous disadvantage and the drivers of economic development and Indigenous empowerment, namely, education, land ownership and private enterprise. At the same time the program will place a greater emphasis on positive initiatives and examples of Indigenous success than in the past.

Research in 2016 will focus on how to make more effective use of the dollars spent on Indigenous affairs. Starting with an audit of government and non-government Indigenous programs, the research will map the extent of overlap and waste that currently exists, and identify more efficient and effective ways to deliver programs and services to Indigenous communities. The research will also assess the impact of the federal government's decision to merge 150 Indigenous programs into five.

An event early in 2016 will bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous business leaders to discuss the



impact successful businesses and partnerships can have on the social and economic outcomes of Indigenous Australians. Research on this topic will examine current engagement initiatives between non-Indigenous businesses/organisations and Indigenous people, and evaluate to what extent these initiatives have contributed to meaningful change.

Later in the year, the research program will begin to look at the role Indigenous corporations play in delivering services to Indigenous communities and the particular accountability and governance issues they can face. The research will identify strategies to improve the accountability and governance arrangements of Indigenous corporations, including looking at what successful Indigenous corporations are doing and the use of 'pay for performance' funding models such as Social Benefit Bonds.



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1. His Grace the Most Reverend Archbishop Anthony Fisher delivers the CIS 2015 Acton Lecture: Should Bakers be Forced to Bake Cakes for Same Sex Weddings: Democracy and the Rights and Limits of Religion and Conscience in Contemporary Australia.

2. The Hon Peter Costello AC with Peter Kurti during a Leadership Lunch that focused on the Bible's teachings on self-reliance.

3. Professor Suzanne Rutland and Professor Zehavit Gross present their research, *Combating Racial Prejudice in the School Playground: An Australian Case Study Abstract*, which analyses the problem of racial bullying in Australian schools with a focus on Jewish children.

4. Dr Samuel Gregg delivers a lecture exploring the economic ideas expressed in Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*.



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## Religion and Civil Society

***The CIS's Religion and Civil Society program (RCS) explores the place of religion and religious belief in a liberal society. The program also evaluates the nature of religion's contribution to social capital in a civil society.***

RCS is coordinated by CIS Research Fellow Reverend Peter Kurti, an Anglican minister and the principal contributor to the program, which also dovetails with the work of Policy Analyst Helen Andrews in the Social Foundations Program.

CIS opinion pieces and commentary on religion and civil society have been sought by The Australian, The Daily Telegraph, Quadrant Online, Online Opinion, ABCTV's The Drum and ABC's Religion & Ethics Report, ABC 702, 2UE and 2GB.

In *No Ordinary Garment? The Burqa and the Pursuit of Tolerance*, Peter Kurti examined the impact of Islamic face coverings in Australia and weighed the arguments for and against banning the 'burqa'.

### Events

Peter Kurti delivered a paper on the religious foundations of economic liberty at the 2015 Mannkal Conference in Fremantle, WA and also spoke at Warrane College at UNSW on the importance of defending religious liberty in Australia.

The 2015 Acton Lecture *Should Bakers Be Forced To Bake Cakes For Same-sex Weddings* was delivered by The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP.

Professor Suzanne Rutland and Professor Zehavit Goss spoke at an event about anti-Semitism in Australian schools, and Professor Rutland also spoke on this at Consilium 2015.

### Looking forward

Australia's multicultural project has been one of the most effective in the world. We have successfully integrated new migrants and forged a society built on tolerating religious and cultural differences. There are, however, indications that fundamental rights to freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, and freedom of religion are now under threat. Pressure to enforce diversity and tolerance, and to avoid giving offence to minority groups at all costs, means that the ways in which Australian religious believers practice their faith may change for ever. The RCS program will continue to explore the influence, impact and place of religion in Australia and will also continue to articulate the religious foundations of liberty.



1. Forum on Chinese foreign policy.
2. China Spectator Editor Peter Cai.
3. China Studies Centre Executive Director Professor Kerry Brown.
4. CIS Research Fellow Dr Benjamin Herscovitch.



## Foreign Policy

***CIS researchers contribute to public debate on a wide range of topical foreign policy issues, including the rise of radical Islamism, the role of US security guarantees in the Asia-Pacific, and China's territorial revisionism. With the US strategic 'pivot' to Asia and China's economic and military resurgence, Australia's regional foreign policy is increasingly contentious. The CIS has advocated pragmatic and cautious foreign policy settings to help safeguard a peaceful and prosperous Asia-Pacific.***

### Research

Research Fellow Dr Benjamin Herscovitch made a submission to the *Defence White Paper 2015*. This submission argued that Australia should develop deeper defence ties with the United States and expand its strategic cooperation with India and Indonesia to secure itself as the Asia-Pacific balance of power rapidly shifts in China's favour. Dr Herscovitch also spoke at a major Chinese foreign policy conference jointly hosted by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy.

Dr Herscovitch was invited to become a bi-monthly columnist with *China Spectator*, Australia's leading chronicle of the Sino-Australian relationship and Chinese affairs. In April, Dr Herscovitch organised a forum at the CIS on Chinese foreign and domestic policy under President Xi Jinping. This event featured leading voices in the Australia-China relationship: Professor Kerry Brown, Executive Director, China Studies Centre and Professor of Chinese Politics, University of Sydney; and Peter Cai, Editor, *China Spectator*.

Dr Herscovitch's CIS report, *The Fog of Foreign Policy: Why only 'least bad' options are available in Syria, Iraq and other global hotspots*, was published in May 2015 and made the case for more international intervention in the Syrian Civil War. Dr Herscovitch's interviews, commentary and articles have regularly appeared in international and Australian media, including *Al Jazeera English*, *South China Morning Post*, *Xinhua*, *People's Daily*, *Global Times*, and *The Australian*.

With regret, the Centre for Independent Studies made the difficult decision to suspend the foreign policy program in 2015 in order to be able to focus more resources on the domestic and indigenous programs — the latter being restarted towards the end of 2015. However, Dr Herscovitch is continuing the work he started at CIS in a new position at policy analysis and advisory firm China Policy.



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1. CIS's Scholar-in-Residence Dr Tom G. Palmer gave several addresses.
2. Dr Palmer focused on welfare states.
3. Senator David Leyonhjelm, Dr Palmer and Helen Dale.
4. Dr Palmer discusses the issues with Senator David Leyonhjelm.





# Scholar-in-Residence

## Scholar-in-Residence

***With the generous support of a donor, the Centre was able to continue with a second year of the CIS Scholar-in-Residence. In 2015 we hosted Dr Tom G. Palmer, arguably the most charismatic and convincing pro-liberty speakers in the world. Dr Palmer is the director of Cato University and the Executive Vice President of the Atlas Network.***

2015 saw Dr Tom Palmer ensconced at the CIS during April as our second Scholar-in-Residence.

Tom was here from Washington where he works as Senior Fellow at the CATO Institute and as Vice-President of International Programs at the Atlas Network, a long-standing institute dedicated to championing liberty worldwide. Tom travels to global hot spots offering advice and support to fledgling groups engaged in the brave and often dangerous struggle for liberty and true democracy.

Tom already had a small (but enthusiastic!) fan base in Australia and his sojourn allowed him ample opportunity to expand those networks and engage a wider audience in serious conversations about protecting our freedoms. Tom spoke in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane on the morality of capitalism, taking responsibility back from government, and Russia's underground advances towards extreme parties in Europe. He also met with LDP Senator David Leyonhjelm and Peter Costello, gave the keynote address to the ALS Friedman Conference, and our student program Liberty & Society and brainstormed with the Australian Taxpayer's Alliance.



1. US Court of Appeals Judge Douglas Ginsburg in the CIS library.
2. Juel Briggs.
3. Chris Roberts and Coca Cola Amatil CEO Alison Watkins.
4. ABC Chairman The Hon James Spigelman AC QC.
5. Minister for Social Services The Hon Christian Porter MP.
6. Coca Cola Amatil CEO Alison Watkins at the podium.
7. Roundtable with Louisa Moats.
8. Journalist Miranda Devine.
9. Grahame Campbell and John Green.
10. Attorney General Senator George Brandis and journalist Tim Blair.
11. Businesswoman Amanda Rose.
12. Human Rights Commissioner Tim Wilson.
13. Journalist Adam Creighton.
14. Richard Kovacs.



# Events Highlights

## Events Highlights

***In addition to discussions on health innovation, adoption, freedom of speech, anti-Semitism, literacy and education policy, retirement funding, Laudato Si, Adam Smith and more, the following key events also featured on the CIS calendar.***

### **Leadership Lunches**

The CIS continued its long tradition of hosting high-level lunch talks for a select group of the country's movers and shakers. Guest speakers this year included Group Managing Director of Coca-Cola-Amatil Alison Watkins, Minister for Health the Hon Sussan Ley MP, NSW Finance Minister the Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, Former Federal Treasurer the Hon Peter Costello AC, then NSW Treasurer Andrew Constance MP, the Hon. Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Federal Member for Higgins and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Federal Member for Aston and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Attorney-General the Hon George Brandis MP and current NSW Treasurer the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP.

### **Magna Carta**

The 15<sup>th</sup> of June marked the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, one of history's most important documents in the struggle for and development of liberty and democracy as we know them in the West today. To celebrate the occasion the CIS played host to a special event kindly hosted by NAB and featuring Nick Clark, CEO from the Rule of Law Institute and Projector Director of its Magna Carta Committee; the Hon. Jim Spigelman AC QC, ABC Chairman and former Chief Justice; and the Hon Christian Porter MP, Member for Pearce and, at the time, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

### **Big Ideas Forum**

*Why "Grievance Feminism" is a Threat to Serious Feminist & Humanitarian Issues* was the topic under fierce debate at this year's BIF. International guests Dr Andrea den Boer from the University of Kent, Christina Hoff Sommers (aka the "Factual Feminist"), a scholar from the American Enterprise Institute, and Brendan O'Neill from online journal *Spiked!* joined local media identity and columnist *The Australian* Janet Albrechtsen for a contentious discussion about modern feminism veering off beam.

### **Acton Lecture on Religion & Freedom**

A prominent feature of the CIS' Religion & Civil Society Program, this year's Acton Lecture on Religion and Freedom was delivered by the new Catholic Archbishop of Sydney. His Grace the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP spoke to a full house at the CIS on *Should Bakers be Forced to Bake Cakes for Same Sex Weddings? Democracy & the Rights & Limits of Religion & Conscience in Contemporary Australia*.

### **Think Drinks**

CIS Board Members Nicholas Moore and Alison Watkins, heads of Macquarie Group and Coca-Cola-Amatil respectively, led the charge in a new initiative to draw more youth members to the classical liberal ideas of the CIS. After-work drinks at a Sydney pub provided the setting for young professionals to meet these industry leaders in person and hear their reflections on business life.

A full list of events appears on page 20–21 for your interest, and videos of many of our activities may be found at [www.cis.org.au](http://www.cis.org.au).

# Events at a Glance

## Events at a Glance



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>The Wasatia Movement: Moderation &amp; Tolerance in Islam</b><br/>Dr Mohammed S Dajani</p>   | <p><b>Roundtable</b></p> <p><b>Productivity Commission, Inquiry into Australia's Migration Intake</b><br/>Various</p>  |
| <p><b>Leadership Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Health not Health Finance: How Do We Better Manage Wellness</b><br/>The Hon Sussan Ley MP</p>  | <p><b>Private Dinner</b></p> <p><b>Magna Carta Dinner</b><br/>The Hon James Spigelman AC QC; The Hon Christian Porter MP</p>   |
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Magna Carta: Celebrating 800 Years of Law and liberty</b><br/>The Hon James Spigelman AC QC; The Hon Christian Porter MP</p>   | <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Australia's Future in the Balance: Overcoming Antagonism &amp; Reigniting Enterprise &amp; Prosperity</b><br/>Professor Emeritus Wolfgang Kasper, Paul Kelly and Robert Carling</p> |
| <p><b>Private Dinner</b></p> <p><b>Reigniting Prosperity Dinner</b><br/>Professor Emeritus Wolfgang Kasper, Paul Kelly and Robert Carling</p>   | <p><b>Leadership Lunch</b></p> <p><b>The Great Divorce: The Costly Divide between Economic and Social Policy</b><br/>Dominic Perrotet MP</p>   |
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Can We Afford Old Age?</b><br/>Jeremy Cooper, Dr Cassandra Goldie and Simon Cowan</p>  | <p><b>Roundtable</b></p> <p><b>Roundtable discussion on Family and Domestic Violence</b><br/>Various</p>   |
| <p><b>Roundtable</b></p> <p><b>The Teachings of Adam Smith in a Contemporary World</b><br/>Jeffrey Young</p>  | <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Religion &amp; the Roots of Liberal Democracy</b><br/>Professor Robert D Woodberry</p>  |
| <p><b>Private Dinner</b></p> <p><b>Religion &amp; the Roots of Liberal Democracy Dinner</b><br/>Professor Robert D Woodberry</p>  | <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Pope Francis, Laudato Si' and the Market Economy: Good Intentions, Flawed Economics</b><br/>Dr Samuel Gregg</p>   |
| <p><b>Private Dinner</b></p> <p><b>Good Intentions, Flawed Economics Dinner</b><br/>Dr Samuel Gregg</p>   | <p><b>Public Dinner Talk</b></p> <p><b>Magna Carta and 800 Years of Freedom</b><br/>Brendan O'Neill</p>  |
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>CIS Annual Big Ideas Forum: Why "Grievance Feminism" is a Threat to Serious Feminist &amp; Humanitarian Issues</b><br/>Dr Janet Albrechtsen, Dr Andrea den Boer, Dr Christina Hoff Summers and Brendan O'Neill</p>           | <p><b>Conference</b></p> <p><b>Consilium</b><br/>Various</p>   |
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Health Innovation</b><br/>Rohan Mead, Mark Fitzibbon, Angus Taylor MP and Dr Jeremy Sammut</p>   | <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Anti-Semitism in the Schoolyard: Combatting Racial Prejudice Early On</b><br/>Professor Zehavit Gross and Professor Suzanne Rutland</p>   |
| <p><b>Leadership Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Federalism: An Argument against Centralisation</b><br/>The Hon Alan Tudge MP</p>   | <p><b>Young professional Think Drinks</b><br/>Nicholas Moore</p>   |
| <p><b>Acton Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Should Bakers be Forced to Bake Cakes for Same Sex Weddings? Democracy and the Rights and Limits of Religion and Conscience in Contemporary Australia</b><br/>His Grace the Most Reverend A. Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney</p> | <p><b>Leadership Lunch</b></p> <p><b>National Security</b><br/>Senator the Hon George Brandis QC</p>   |
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Is Australia's Run of Growth and Rising Prosperity Over?</b><br/>Satyajit Das</p>  | <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Breaking the Adoption 'Taboo' in Australia - Sydney</b><br/>Deborra-lee Furness, Miranda Devine, John O'Neill, and Dr Jeremy Sammut</p>   |
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Breaking the Adoption 'Taboo' in Australia - Melbourne</b><br/>John Hirst, Jane Hunt and Dr Jeremy Sammut</p>  | <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Breaking the Adoption 'Taboo' in Australia - Adelaide</b><br/>Mark Johns, Tony Pasin MP and Dr Jeremy Sammut</p>  |
| <p><b>Public Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Breaking the Adoption 'Taboo' in Australia - Brisbane</b><br/>Hon Dr Gary Johns, Tess Livingstone, Nadine Wright and Dr Jeremy Sammut</p>  | <p><b>Private Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Tax discussion</b><br/>Robert Carling</p>  |

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1. Middle East guests Dr Jonathan Spyer & Dr Nouh El Harmouzi with local expert Professor Greg Barton.
2. Bill Leak discusses his cartooning with CIS Director Christopher White and CIS scholars Rev Peter Kurti and Dr Jeremy Sammut.
3. Adoption advocate John O'Neill.
4. Some of the CIS Board at Consilium.



## Consilium

***Consilium is CIS's invitation-only annual policy conference for the brightest Australian and overseas thinkers from business, politics, academia, science, education and community to gather and discuss crucial issues.***

The tranquil surrounds of the InterContinental Sanctuary Cove Resort again provided the setting for CIS's annual conference Consilium.

Delving straight into weighty matters were breakfast sessions on the strange, socially destabilising phenomenon of China's gender imbalance (estimates predict 30 million single men by 2020), and the disturbing new rise of anti-Semitism. These sessions were led respectively by Dr Andrea den Boer from the University of Kent; and Professor Suzanne Rutland (author of *Edge of the Diaspora*) and head of the CIS Religion & Civil Society Program Rev Peter Kurti.

The opening plenary session continued the gravity with an exploration of *Radical Islam's War of the Mind* featuring Professor Nouh El Harmouzi, a scholar and courageous libertarian activist from Morocco; Dr Jonathan Spyer, Israeli journalist and Director of the Rubin Center for Research in International Affairs; Professor Greg Barton, an Islamic extremism expert from Monash University; and Major General (Retired) Jim Molan AO DSC, a noted defence and security consultant. The session featured disturbing but effective video footage to counteract ISIS's recruitment campaigns, and discussions centred on the imperative to act strongly against Daesh.

Session Two covered *The Challenges & Hindrances to Global Growth* with leading economists Professor Henry Ergas, formerly with the OECD and currently Professor of Infrastructure Economics at the University of Wollongong; Professor Warwick McKibbin, Chair in Public Policy at the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic

Analysis at ANU; and international guests Dr Razeen Sally from Singapore, Director of the European Centre for International Political Economy; and Professor Beatrice Weder di Mauro, Chair of International Macroeconomics from the University of Mainz in Germany.

Session Three moved on to the controversial issue of *Why "Grievance Feminism" is a Threat to Serious Feminist & Humanitarian Issues*. The phrase was coined by America's "Factual Feminist" and author of *Who Stole Feminism*, Christina Hoff Sommers, who shared the stage with Dr Andrea den Boer (mentioned above and also Principle Investigator of the WomanStats Project); Brendan O'Neill, a contrarian journalist from Britain; and *The Australian* columnist and media commentator Dr Janet Albrechsten. The panel did not always agree — and question time was heated — but the general consensus was the need to restore feminism to its noble, libertarian origins.

Taboo entrenched in Australian culture around adoption was the subject over breakfast on day two of Consilium. Talk focused on the work of esteemed CIS researcher Dr Jeremy Sammut with a personal angle provided by John O'Neill, Director of Adopt Change, an organisation instigated by passionate adoption advocate Deborah-lee Furness. John was adopted as a child *and* chose to adopt his own son, and spoke movingly about his positive experiences.

Dr Jennifer Buckingham, a firm Consilium favourite and respected education policy scholar, put together the panel for Session Four on *Ideology in the Classroom: How Teaching Became Political Instead of Professional* and persuaded senior politicians the Hon Senator Scott Ryan from Victoria and the Right Hon the Lord Adonis from the House of Lords in the UK to take part. Senator Ryan was then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training, and His Lordship — who preferred the more egalitarian Australian address of 'Andrew' — was formerly Britain's Minister for Schools. They joined Dr Buckingham for a discussion about

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1. The happy panel for our session on advances in ageing and wellness.
2. Economist Judith Sloan with Senator David Leyonhjelm and cartoonist Bill Leak.
3. Columnist Dr Janet Albrechsten trying on her Consilium gift!
4. The Australian's Editor-at Large Paul Kelly next to RMIT scholar Professor Jason Potts.
5. His Lordship the Right Hon Andrew Adonis.
6. Quadrant Editor John O'Sullivan delivered an entertaining and erudite dinner speech.
7. Spiked editor Brendan O'Neill with Bleak Gallery cartoonist Bill Leak.
8. Feminism session panel.



education reform along with blogger and writer Greg Ashman, Head of Research at Ballarat Clarendon College.

*The Sisyphean Challenge of Modern Democracy* was next, offering a warning about the dangers democracy faces globally even within established democracies. The panel discussed voter malaise, democratic institutions and political performance, with talks by Editor-at-Large Paul Kelly from *The Australian*; the head of the NewDemocracy Foundation, Luca Belgiorno-Nettis; Professor Jason Potts from RMIT; and Senator Bob Day AO, Senator for South Australia.

The final heartening session centred on *The New Science of Ageing & Wellness*. Delegates welcomed back Professor Matt Trau, Director of the Centre

for Personalised Nanomedicine at the University of Queensland. He was joined by Professor Anthony Hannan, Head of Neural Plasticity at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health, and an expert in the burgeoning field of epigenetics. Also featured were international guests Dr Leroy Hood, a “global treasure”, President of the Institute for Systems Biology in the US and a key figure in sequencing the human genome; and disruptive health technology entrepreneur Ravinder Sajwan, again from the US.

And providing colour and entertainment during the evenings were punchy cartoonist Bill Leak from *The Australian*, with razor-sharp journalist Brendan O’Neill from UK publication *Spiked!*; and *Quadrant’s* witty new editor John O’Sullivan. Each came equipped with a suitable blend of charm, humour, erudition and audacity.



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1. Perth 2015 group.
2. Break out group discussion May.
3. Breakout group discussion.
4. Breakout discussion Perth.
5. Dr Augustos Zimmermann and student - Perth July 2015.
6. Dr Tom Palmer spoke about analytical tools for examining policy. Anastasia Glushko also attended the May conference.
7. Dr Nicholas Southwood teaching political philosophy in May.
8. Perth lunch with great L&S supporter, Ron Manners.
9. Listening to Nick Cater speak at the May opening dinner.
10. Q&A.
11. May 2015 group.

# Liberty & Society Student Program

## Liberty & Society Student Program

***As the CIS turns 40 in 2016, the Liberty and Society student program turns 20. With almost 1000 young people attending conferences during that period it is an opportunity to reflect on the program.***

In 1996, when CIS' then-editor and researcher Andrew Norton started the L&S program there were no forums for young people interested in classical liberal or libertarian philosophy to explore the ideas and how they may work in the Australian setting. At university, the mere mention of the free market seemed to stop conversation and strain friendships. The pent-up demand for an outlet to discuss these ideas means the L&S conferences attract keen young people. With the support of the CIS, many build networks and relationships that continue through their study and into their careers in a variety of fields. For example there are L&S alumni in the current federal ministry, including Michael Keenan, Josh Frydenberg, Kelly O'Dwyer and Scott Ryan.

Over time, we have seen a shift in mainstream understanding — classical liberalism and libertarianism is now understood, spoken about and part of the ideas landscape. L&S alumni have helped this process by starting a number of youth organisations. L&S alumni and former CIS employee Dr John Humphreys started the Australian Libertarian Society, with its major activity the annual Friedman Conference. The society also assists the campus-based club Australian Students for Liberty, many of whom have come to an L&S conference. L&S alumni Tim Andrews started the Australian Taxpayers Alliance, and numerous alumni are running campus libertarian clubs.

The Liberty & Society conference program has become a foundational part of education about the free market and classical liberal philosophy for young Australians and New Zealanders. Consistent support from individuals and foundations such as the Lyngara Foundation, The Mannkal Foundation for Economic

Freedom and Macquarie Group Foundation, has allowed us to fund students where the emphasis is not short-term activism or politics but serious learning about the foundations of a liberal democratic society.

Our 2015 conferences in Sydney (May) and in Perth ((July) were very successful and involved lecturers from a range of universities, including the University of Queensland, RMIT, the University of Western Australia and the University of Wollongong. We also benefited from the contribution of world-renowned free market champion — and 2015 CIS Scholar-in-Residence — Dr Tom Palmer from the Atlas Foundation and the CATO Institute. A comment from Esther Harris about the May conference sums up what many attendees say:

***“Brilliant use of a weekend. It is so rare to experience such genuine exchanging of ideas and questioning of philosophies. It was especially enjoyable to discuss political problems with people who began with the same worldview: you could make progress together. I wish my university experience had been similar – full of people who are about ideas, not judgment from the outset according to what you think/where you come from.”***

Our plans include a yearly interstate conference , when appropriate. In 2016, we will hold the Sydney conference in April, and a Melbourne one later in the year. We are also extending the network by including L&S alumni in our young professionals' *Thinkdrinks* events.

The increased level of activity among young people is a very encouraging sign. The maturing of L&S alumni is seeing the best ideas to build a free and open society translated into action through work activities and social interactions.



**THE SPECTATOR** MENU

FEATURES AUSTRALIA

# The Last of the Conservatives

Has the poll-driven Turnbull coup put paid to conservative economic reform in Australia?

Jeremy Summut

8:40 Today

## CHARTERED SCHOOLS

GRADES PREDICTED TO IMPROVE UNDER PRIVATE COMPANIES

**Daily Telegraph**

Sydney 17-26 °C Hi Karla

# Peter Kurti: Muslims must fight evil within following paris attacks

## WASTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS

Today HOB 15°

I wake up with Today

THE AGE Comment

### Financial System Inquiry's pre-emptive power straight out of Hollywood script

April 2, 2015

FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Rorts for the rich are a myth

Ending tax breaks on super and capital gains would not save anything like the revenue that their critics claim. But removing them would must

The Sydney Morning Herald Comment

### Lifting literacy needs more than just money

November 1, 2015

Jennifer Buckingham

**THE AUSTRALIAN** KARLA plus

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS REVIEW NATIONAL AFFAIRS SPORT LIFE TECHNOLOGY ARTS

Simon Cowan at the Melbourne Institute's Economic and Social Outlook conference yesterday. 'It's also about fairness'. Picture: Aaron Francis

Including the family home in the pension assets test is essential to rein in unsustainable growth in pension spending and create a system that does not give

# Media and Communications

## Media and Communications

***The Centre for Independent Studies has a longstanding reputation for developing rigorously researched and insightful policy ideas, and assiduously promoting them to both government and the public. Our robust relationship with Australian and international media is key to broadcasting our messages, and our researchers are seen as experts in their fields, frequently being called upon for commentary on the issues of the day.***

In the past 12 months, CIS published 438 op-eds, has been cited in 3602 print and digital news stories, and researchers have appeared in 388 radio broadcasts and on 108 TV shows.

Research is developed on the foundation of the CIS's principles and message, and is the main focus for the media and communications work in broadcasting policy proposals and helping raise the CIS profile. Research promotion in 2015 focused on a total of 29 publications, including five Issue Analyses, six Policy Monographs, five Occasional Papers, two Foreign

Policy Analyses, five TARGET30 papers, two Special Publications, two Policy Forums and two submissions to government.

Another key focus for media liaison is promotion of CIS events, with widespread coverage given in 2015 to high-profile Australian and international speakers for a range of events.

The new approach to events media has seen CIS largely able to provide transcripts and video in the subsequent 24 hours, and has resulted in extra media. The 2015 Consilium/Big Ideas events received 19 media mentions, and the interviews and stories for 2015 Consilium resulted in 44 known media notices.

In addition to media coverage, CIS is continually exploring ways to increase its use of direct and electronic communications, including further growing its social media profile, and improving and enhancing its digital newsletters and video and multimedia production.

The CIS website was relaunched in 2015 with better security, a fresher design, and more accessible architecture designed to better engage and serve our audience.

438  
OP-EDS

3,602  
NEWS STORIES

388  
RADIO  
BROADCASTS

108  
TV SHOWS

461,000  
FACEBOOK  
POST REACH

2,690  
TWEETS

2,500  
TWITTER  
MENTIONS

# Publications

## Publications

### APRIL

#### Research Report

#### The Age Old Problem of Old Age: Fixing the Pension

Matthew Taylor, Simon Cowan

#### Research Report

#### Right or Rort? Dissecting Australia's Tax Concessions

Robert Carling

#### Event Publication

#### The rise of China's imperial president

Professor Kerry Brown, Peter Cai,  
Dr Benjamin Herscovitch

### MARCH

#### Research Report

#### Towards a more competitive Medicare: The case for deregulating medical fees and co-payments in Australia

David Gadiel

### MAY

#### Submission

#### Submission to the Financial System Inquiry Final Report

Patrick Carvalho

#### Research Report

#### The Fog of Foreign Policy: Why only 'least bad' options are available in Syria, Iraq and other global hotspots

Benjamin Herscovitch

## JUNE

### Event Publication

#### **Australia's Future in the Balance: Overcoming Antagonism & Reigniting Enterprise & Prosperity**

Wolfgang Kasper, Paul Kelly

### Occasional Paper

#### **Magna Carta: Talisman of Liberty**

Barry Maley

### Event Publication

#### **Magna Carta: Celebrating 800 Years of Law and Liberty**

James Spigelman, Christian Porter

### Event Publication

#### **The Wasatia Movement: Moderation & Tolerance in Islam**

Dr Mohammed Dajani

### Research Report

#### **No Ordinary Garment? The Burqa and the Pursuit of Tolerance**

Peter Kurti

### Occasional Paper

#### **The Case for a New Australian Settlement: Ruminations of an Inveterate Economist**

Wolfgang Kasper

## OCTOBER

### Occasional Paper

#### **Acton Lecture — Should Bakers be Forced to Bake Cakes for Same Sex Weddings: Democracy and the Rights and Limits of Religion and Conscience in Contemporary Australia.**

His Grace the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher,  
Archbishop of Sydney

## JULY

### Event Publication

#### **Religion and the Roots of Liberal Democracy**

Robert Woodberry

### Event Publication

#### **Can We Afford Old Age?**

Jeremy Cooper, Dr Cassandra Goldie,  
Simon Cowan

## AUGUST

### Research Report

#### **Free to Choose Charter Schools: How charter and for-profit schools can boost public education**

Trisha Jha, Jennifer Buckingham

### Submission

#### **Principles and recommendations for tax reform - CIS Submission to National Reform Summit**

Simon Cowan, Robert Carling, Henry Ergas

### Submission

#### **Submission to the Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry into Personal Choice and Community Impacts 2015**

Helen Andrews, Barry Maley

## SEPTEMBER

### Event Publication

#### **Health Innovation**

Rohan Mead, Mark Fitzgibbon,  
Angus Taylor MP, Dr Jeremy Sammut

### Event Publication

#### **Anti-Semitism in the Schoolyard: Combatting Racial Prejudice Early On**

Professor Zehavit Gross,  
Professor Suzanne Rutland

## NOVEMBER

### Research Report

#### **Youth Unemployment in Australia**

Patrick Carvalho

# Featured Publications

## Featured Publications

*Our high-quality research publications form a crucial part of the foundation of the CIS's public profile and endeavours to promulgate policy proposals. As part of this focus, we are continually assessing the content and format of our research output. To this end, at the start of 2015, the categories of Policy Monograph and Issue Analysis were both reclassified as Research Reports. In addition, a new classification was added: Event Publication; aiming to better broadcast the many thought-provoking CIS forums and seminars.*

*From November 2014 to the end of October 2015 (the close of our reporting year), the CIS published six Research Reports, four Submissions, three Policy Monographs, three Occasional Papers, eight Event Publications, and three editions of Policy magazine.*

### **Free to Choose Charter Schools: How charter and for-profit schools can boost public education**

**Trisha Jha, Jennifer Buckingham**

Explores the policies and research on charter schools and their equivalents in five countries – USA, Sweden, Chile, England and New Zealand. Research shows that certain types of charter schools have a strong positive impact on the academic achievement of disadvantaged students.



### **No Ordinary Garment? The Burqa and the Pursuit of Tolerance**

**Peter Kurti**

Examines arguments about the burqa and investigates the way Australia balances the right of an individual to live in obedience to a religion with the wider obligation of the state to promote social cohesion.



### **Magna Carta: Talisman of Liberty**

**Barry Maley**

The Magna Carta became the foundation of a movement that finally brought justice, liberty and prosperity to the common men and women of England; and, in turn, to English-speaking nations elsewhere. Understanding how it came about is vital to the will to protect and to cherish our freedoms.



### **Regulating for Quality in Childcare: The Evidence Base**

**Trisha Jha**

This report details that the costs of the National Quality Agenda reforms have been understated and the potential benefits overstated. There are four kinds of costs that the commissioned reports do not adequately take into account: administrative costs, impacts on supply, impacts on female labour force participation and deadweight loss.



## The Fog of Foreign Policy: Why only 'least bad' options are available in Syria, Iraq and other global hotspots

**Benjamin Herscovitch**

Although different slogans are employed by left and right, major political parties support broadly liberal foreign policy goals. However, as the Syrian Civil War and war against Islamic State (IS) in Iraq make painfully plain, a massive gap exists between these settled foreign policy ends and the uncertain means by which to achieve them.



## The Case for a New Australian Settlement: Ruminations of an Inveterate Economist

**Wolfgang Kasper**

Australia needs a cultural counter-revolution that appeals to the traditional Australian spirit of self-reliance and can-do optimism – a new 'Australian settlement' which goes beyond mere economic policy.



## Towards a more competitive Medicare: The case for deregulating medical fees and co-payments in Australia

**David Gadiel**

The abolition of the Schedule Fee (by setting it at zero) under the Health Insurance Regulations would enable its replacement by the publication of a 'benefit payable' on items listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule. This would eliminate any need for governments to undertake the politically challenging task of introducing a GP co-payment.



## The Age Old Problem of Old Age: Fixing the Pension

**Matthew Taylor, Simon Cowan**

In this TARGET 30 Research Report CIS modelling shows that reforming the pension could deliver income gains of more than \$5,900 a year to almost 98% of pensioners. These reforms would also reduce the cost of the pension by \$14.5 billion a year.



## An Ounce of Prevention? A Toolkit for Evaluating Preventive Health Measures

**Helen Andrews**

Trying to tell whether a preventive health program will be as effective—and cost-effective—as its proponents claim is a difficult task for policymakers and voters. This paper offers a toolkit to assist in their evaluations, in the form of eight questions to ask of any preventive health proposal.



## The Kinship Conundrum: The Impact of Aboriginal Self-Determination on Indigenous Child Protection

**Jeremy Sammut**

This report argues that mainstreaming revolution in Indigenous policy should be extended to Indigenous child protection policy, and that Aboriginal exceptionalism—typified by the operation of Aboriginal Child Placement Principle (ACPP)—must cease.



## Right or Rort? Dissecting Australia's Tax Concessions

**Robert Carling**

Tinkering with tax concessions to raise more revenue on its own does not constitute beneficial tax reform. Concessions should only be reconsidered in the context of a broader restructuring of the tax system as a whole.



## Acton Lecture — Should Bakers be Forced to Bake Cakes for Same Sex Weddings: Democracy and the Rights and Limits of Religion and Conscience in Contemporary Australia.

**His Grace the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney**

Should Bakers be Forced to Bake Cakes for Same Sex Weddings: Democracy and the Rights and Limits of Religion and Conscience in Contemporary Australia. Given by His Grace the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney, the lecture defended the continuing importance of conscience and religious liberty in democracy today.



# Policy Magazine

## Policy Magazine

*Policy is a quarterly publication of the CIS, focusing on new ideas, debates and opinion. Under new editor Helen Andrews, Policy had an exciting 2015, and published three issues instead of the usual four. The calibre of articles has been consistently high, with stand-outs including a free speech symposium featuring Tim Wilson and Janet Albrechtsen, a symposium on feminism featuring Dr Christina Hoff Sommers and Andrea den Boer, and an article by Dr Jeremy Shearmur that broke new ground in the historiography of the American conservative movement by unearthing never-before-examined documents from the archives of influential theologian R. J. Rushdoony. Policy is available at [cis.org.au](http://cis.org.au) and at selected newsagents.*



**Vol.31 No.1**  
**Autumn**  
Free Speech Symposium



**Vol.31 No.2**  
**Winter**  
Grievance Feminism



**Vol.31 No.3**  
**Spring**  
The Future of Medicine



# 40th Anniversary

## 40th Anniversary

***It is hard to believe that it has been 40 years since 27-year-old Greg Lindsay started the CIS. The 1970s were an exciting and turbulent time, a time that was right for an independent free market think tank to come on to the Australian scene.***

The 1970's saw a need for serious but accessible research to be carried out and disseminated to help persuade the policy makers that serious changes needed to occur in a then very insular Australia. During the 1980s and 90s the CIS provided the intellectual ammunition to help soften the ground so that the big economic battles over protectionism, floating the dollar and privatising federal and state enterprises could be won.

The CIS has always kept ahead of the game and in the late 1900s and the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century added the new battle ground of social policy and the ever growing welfare state. Over the years people like Helen Hughes, Barry Maley, Peter Saunders, Jennifer Buckingham and Jeremy Sammut have continually questioned the status quo and led debates on issues such as welfare to work, the overwhelming bureaucracy and waste in remote aboriginal communities and the need for choice in schools.

In 2004 an article by Diana Bagnall in *The Bulletin* confirmed the CIS place in the policy arena when she described CIS as "having its fingerprints . . . all over the country's political agenda, on both sides".

The past 10 years have seen the CIS continue to grow and offer well-argued research that is a constant irritant to conventional thinking. There is a continual quest to refine how CIS gets its message across by adapting to new technologies and with the overwhelming amount of information available, informing people more directly. Our researchers are spending more time talking to politicians and bureaucrats from all political persuasions. We have created targeted programs such as TARGET30, FIVE from FIVE and the revamped indigenous program. We are holding more events, building TV and radio profiles and building our skills in videos and social media.

The CIS has been incredibly fortunate with the quality and range of people who have been part of its adventure over the years and who have been prepared to give time, financial and moral support to the organisation. They understand that change is often slow and that intellectual and policy wins can easily be reversed unless they are continually reinforced & supported.

With the relentless growth of the state CIS is not naïve in thinking that it has succeeded but we believe that without the CIS the situation would be a lot worse. The CIS seems to exist now in a public environment where people's feelings and opinions become fact and where responses are subjective rather than objective. The CIS is an antidote to this – hard facts and rational, objective arguments are in the core of our DNA.

Join us in our 40<sup>th</sup> year when we will be celebrating our journey by bringing out to Australia some great intellectual & high profile friends, moving to new premises closer to the city and building on our exciting research programs.



# External Engagement

## External Engagement

***In 2015, CIS has been pursuing a new targeted strategy for strengthening our voice in influencing government policy. We have been working closely with state and federal governments with the aim of shaping public policy in the areas of tax reform, retirement incomes, education, and youth unemployment.***

So far this year we have met with 24 members of Federal Parliament from all sides of politics, including nine Cabinet Ministers. We have met with several State Ministers and senior bureaucrats, including the Secretary to the Treasury, and the Director of the WA's Department of Child Protection.

At the same time as nurturing our good relationships with members of the Government, we have been paying particular attention to strengthening our relationship with the ALP and the National Party.

Some of the key outcomes of these efforts include:

- Dr Buckingham briefing the Federal Education Minister, the office of the NSW Opposition Leader and senior bureaucrats on education reform
- Inclusion of CIS at the Federal Government's Tax White Paper roundtable
- Appointment of Dr. Buckingham as a director of Australian Institute for Learning and Leadership (AITSL), which provides national guidance for the Australian, State and Territory Governments in promoting excellence in the profession of teaching.
- Appointment of CIS on the steering committee for the National Reform Summit
- Robert Carling briefing the Parliamentary society, Modest Members, on federalism
- Dr. Jeremy Sammut's recommendations included by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee's report into Out of Home Care

In the coming year, we will be focussing on developing closer links with the crossbench Senators. CIS will also be working more closely with the State governments, particularly in the areas of education and child protection.

Outside of the corridors of power, we have developed a partnership with the University of Sydney, and are working on a number of exciting collaborations for 2016 with some of Sydney's most iconic cultural institutions – watch this space.



# Fundraising

## Fundraising

***We deeply value and appreciate your ongoing support. Your donations, membership and subscriptions all play a critical role in making possible our research, communications and events, and allow us to continue arguing for improved public policy, liberty and enterprise.***

### Donations and Membership

CIS supporters continued to give generously during 2015. Our End of Financial Year Appeal raised more than \$100,000, and the additional generosity of our supporters has enabled us to launch the crucial *FIVE from FIVE* education project, and restart the CIS Indigenous Policy Research Program.

To broaden the CIS support base, we have also initiated a new membership, *Young Members* – which aims to expose young professionals to the work of CIS via exclusive invitations to *ThinkDrinks*, networking events that allow them to meet some of Australia’s leading thinkers, business leaders and political figures.

### Bequests

If you would like to make a tangible and lasting gift, you can support the CIS with a bequest – by a gift of cash, property, shares or even a percentage of your estate.

The CIS has received ongoing interest in bequests from our membership base, and we encourage supporters to convert that interest into pledges.

For those generous supporters who have donated to the CIS over many years, a bequest is a means of supporting the Centre beyond one’s current membership and donations structure, and in a way that may not have been possible during one’s lifetime.

It was with great sadness that we note the passing of Jacqueline Field in 2014. Longstanding members and friends will remember Jacqueline with fondness as she was a regular and welcome guest at the Centre for many years.

We were very moved to be remembered in her bequest and we wish to acknowledge both her generosity and her fellowship. We pay our respect to her memory and express our condolences to her family.

### Capital Fund

The CIS Capital Fund was established in 2006 with a five year target to raise \$5 million and ensure the long-term future of the CIS. The Centre met its initial target via Capital Fund pledges and the reinvestment of accrued interest. Conservative management of the fund has ensured that our investments have performed well. We continue to welcome contributions to the Capital Fund.

Donations, memberships and other forms of support are the lifeblood of our work, and we thank all our contributors for their continued support. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible, and all support makes a difference! For further information on memberships, donations, bequests or the capital fund please call us on **(02) 9438 4377** or go to **[www.cis.org.au](http://www.cis.org.au)**.

# Featured Publications

## Research Staff

### Helen Andrews

#### Policy Analyst, Social Foundations Program

Helen's first report in 2014 called *Independent Charities, Independent Regulators: The Future for Not-for-Profit Regulation* challenged the need for government regulation of the NFP sector. Helen then moved into the controversial area of preventative health. She has recently written a report titled *An Ounce of Prevention? A Toolkit for evaluating Preventive Health Measures*. In 2015 Helen has also taken on the role of Editor of *POLICY* magazine



### Dr Patrick Carvalho

#### Research Fellow, Economics Program

Patrick joined CIS this year and has recently released paper on youth unemployment. He formerly worked as the Head of the Economic Studies Division at the Federation of Industries of Rio de Janeiro and as a Lecturer in the Research School of Economics at the Australian National University. He has published in several Australian and international forums.



### Dr Jennifer Buckingham

#### Research Fellow, Social Foundations Program & Research Manager (to July)

Jennifer's main area of work is school education. This year her paper called *Why Jaydon Can't Read* received wide support. Since this paper the National Curriculum Review has recommended phonetic instruction. Jennifer also contributed a report in the TARGET30 program called *School Funding on a Budget*. She is the head of a new program call FIVE from FIVE.



### Simon Cowan

#### Research Fellow, TARGET30 Program Director and Acting Research Manager (from July)

Simon co-ordinates the TARGET30 program which is focused on government spending. He also works on government industry policy and regulation. Simon co-wrote the seminal CIS paper on the age pension and has drafted submissions to the government's Tax White Paper review, the National Reform Summit and the National Commission of Audit. Simon has done more than 60 TV appearances in the last year including ABC programs such as *The Drum* and *730*, Channel 9's *Sunrise* and *Sky News* programs.



### Robert Carling

#### Senior Fellow, Economics Program

Robert's expertise is in fiscal policy, taxation and federalism. This year he has produced a research report on Australia's tax concessions and made a submission to the federal government's tax review. He also made presentations to several conferences and other forums on taxation, federalism and government debt, including the Australian Financial Review's Tax Reform Summit in September and the Australian Conference of Economists in July.



### Dr Benjamin Herscovitch

#### Research Fellow, Foreign Policy Program

Ben's work concentrated on China-Australia relations and foreign policy in the Middle East. Ben wrote submissions on a range of issues, including the Defence White paper and Foreign Affairs Reference paper. He is a regular commentator in foreign media outlets and is currently based in Beijing. He is now working for a Chinese based policy group.



## Sara Hudson

### Research Fellow and Manager of the Indigenous Research Program

Sara has published widely on Indigenous policy for the CIS, with a particular focus on Indigenous economic development, health and criminal justice. Her future work at the CIS will focus on government funding of Indigenous programs and Indigenous economic development, with a particular focus on Indigenous and non-Indigenous business partnerships.



## David Gadiel

### Senior Fellow, Social Foundations Program

David's skills include measurement and design in health services, economic evaluation in health, economic modelling and the application of economic analysis to health service and health workforce problem solving.



## Trisha Jha

### Policy Analyst, Social Policy

Trisha has been working closely with Dr Jennifer Buckingham on research relating to education and childcare. In August their co-authored report *Free to Choose Charter Schools: How charter and for-profit schools can boost public education* was well-received in the media and by key stakeholders. She has also made appearances on the ABC's Q&A and on Sky News, as well as radio and print media.



## The Rev. Peter Kurti

### Research Fellow, Religion and Civil Society Program

Peter's work considers a liberal approach to religion in civil society and investigating the capacity of that society to maintain freedom for expression of religious values. This year he has published a report *No Ordinary Garment? The Burqa and the Pursuit of Tolerance* as well as numerous opinion pieces on issues such as religious liberty, the morality of divestment policies, and anti-Semitism.



## Barry Maley

### Senior Fellow

Barry continues to be a significant contributor to the CIS. In 2015 Barry wrote *'Magna Carta: Talisman of Liberty'* and assisted with government submissions.



## Michael Potter

### Research Fellow, Economics Program

Michael joined CIS this year and formerly worked for the Parliamentary Budget Office, the Federal Departments of Treasury, Environment and Prime Minister & Cabinet (where he advised then Prime Minister John Howard on the introduction of the GST). He has also worked as Policy Manager, Economics at the National Farmers' Federation, and Director, Economics and Taxation at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



## Dr Jeremy Sammut

### Research Fellow, Social Foundations Program

Jeremy's research expertise is in health and Australia's child protection system. His ground breaking work in child protection has continued in 2015 with the publication of his book *The Madness of Australian Child Protection: Why Adoption Will Rescue Underclass Children*. Jeremy has also contributed to TARGET30 reports, the *Singapore Health System* paper and a book on federalism.



## Professor Peter Saunders

### Senior Fellow

After many years as the Social Foundations Program Director, Peter returned to live in England. He has maintained his relationship with the CIS reviewing reports before they are released and being available for discussion on policy issues.



## Professor Steven Schwartz

### Senior Fellow

Professor Schwartz is a former Vice Chancellor of Macquarie University. His expertise is in higher education.



## Matthew Taylor

### Research Fellow, Economics Program

Matthew researched living standards of Australian families by developing micro-simulation models to assess the fiscal and distributional impacts of tax and income support policies. He co-authored with Simon Cowan *The Age-Old Problem of Old Age: Fixing the Pension*. He has left CIS to complete a PhD.



# Staff

## Staff

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### **Meegan Cornforth**

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## Board of Directors

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## Distinguished Fellows

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Dr Ben Teh (1941–98)

# Accounts

## Accounts

### The Centre For Independent Studies Ltd

Income & Expenditure Statement

Ending Financial Years 30/06/2015 and 30/06/2014

| INCOME  | To June 2015<br>AUDITED (\$) | To June 2014<br>AUDITED (\$) |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Donations   | 2,166,787.00                 | 1,892,162.00                 |
| Book Sales and Subscriptions                              | 191,092.00                   | 240,593.00                   |
| Consilium/Seminar/Lecture Income                          | 556,377.00                   | 779,779.00                   |
| Investment & Sundry Income (includes Capital Fund Income) | 128,719.00                   | 236,162.00                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                       | <b>3,042,975.00</b>          | <b>3,148,696.00</b>          |

| EXPENSES                        | To June 2015*<br>(\$) | TO JUNE 2014<br>AUDITED (\$) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Research, Functions, Publishing | 478,113.63            | 535,947.09                   |
| Fundraising & Development       | 49,497.99             | 62,479.36                    |
| Salaries (includes Research)    | 2,129,187.93          | 1,943,722.11                 |
| Administration & Rent           | 340,447.45            | 300,748.08                   |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>           | <b>2,997,247.00</b>   | <b>2,842,896.64</b>          |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>        | <b>45,728.00</b>      | <b>305,799.36</b>            |

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital Fund as at 30 June 2014 | <b>\$5,222,392.00</b> |
| Investment Income               | <b>-\$216,518.00</b>  |
| Capital Fund as at 30 June 2015 | <b>\$5,005,874.00</b> |

\* Represents unaudited figures for year ending 30/6/15



[cis.org.au](http://cis.org.au)



[cis.org.au/target30](http://cis.org.au/target30)



[ciswastewatch.org.au](http://ciswastewatch.org.au)



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THE CENTRE FOR  
**INDEPENDENT**  
STUDIES



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