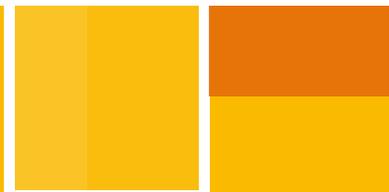
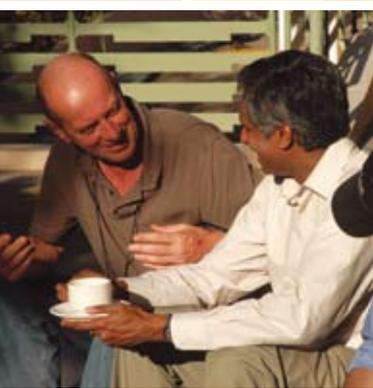
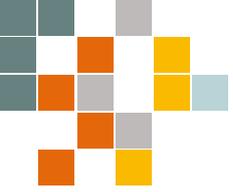


PréCIS

The Centre for Independent Studies



LEADERSHIP IN IDEAS



THE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES

January–June 2008

The Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) is Australasia's leading public policy research institute or think tank. Founded in 1976 by Greg Lindsay, the Centre's major concern is with the principles and institutions underlying a free and open society, with a particular focus on Australia and New Zealand.

Our goals

- An economy based on free markets
- Democratic government under the rule of law
- An autonomous and free civil society

Activities

- Research
- Publishing
- Lectures and seminars
- Liberty and Society student program

Funding and independence

CIS is funded by private sector donations—from individuals, companies, and charitable trusts—as well as subscriptions and book sales.

Independent in our name means:

- We are politically non-partisan.
- Research is not directed by our supporters.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



To come

Greg Lindsay

25 February 2008

Inaugural Lightbulb Lunch:
New Frontiers in Free Trade—
Globalisation and Asia's Rising Role

Dr Razeen Sally, co-director of the Brussels-based European Centre for International Political Economy was guest speaker at this first lunch in our new in-house series.



14 April 2008

Lightbulb Lunch:
Europe's Bleak Future

Daniel Pipes, American journalist and Islam scholar, discussed how prevalent radical Islamists have become in Europe, and the threat they pose to Western secular society.

11 March 2008

Lightbulb Lunch: Surprising Lessons from the Swedish Economy

Maria Rankka, CEO of leading Swedish think tank Timbro, discussed Sweden's welfare state system and its effect on the economy and labour-force participation.



10 April 2008

Hayek's Ideas in the Twenty-first Century: A Tribute

Professor Paul Kerin, Professor Sinclair Davidson, Professor Suri Ratnapala, Dr Nicholas Gruen and Professor Chandran Kukathas provided different perspectives on Hayek's work in tribute to this key thinker of the twentieth century.



30 May 2008

Supping With the Devil:
Government Contracts and
the Not-for-profit Sector

Professor Peter Saunders of the CIS and Martin Stewart-Weeks from Albany Consulting hosted a lunch discussion with a group of representatives from the third sector, including the Smith Family, Relationships Australia, and the Job Network. Discussion focused on the role the third sector can play when it relies increasingly on government funding.



5 May 2008

Forum: 'Fixing Federalism'

The CIS hosted a half-day forum on Monday, 5 May 2008 to discuss *Fixing Federalism*. Led by CIS senior fellow Robert Carling, the discussion covered the constitutional and legal foundations of federalism; the roles and responsibilities of commonwealth, state, and local governments; national reform; the fiscal aspects of federalism; and the benefits a federal structure brings to Australia. Panellists included Melbourne Law School Professor Cheryl Saunders; Emeritus Professor Cliff Walsh and Dr Jonathan Pincus of the School of Economics at the University of Adelaide; Mr Ken Baxter, Director of TFG International; and former CIS senior fellow Professor Wolfgang Kasper. Contributions to the forum are currently being collected for publication, and video footage will be available online at www.cis.org.au.

'The explosion of world food prices has much to do with political subsidies diverting wheat and sugar from hungry mouths into fuel tanks.'

*Wolfgang Kasper
in the Australian
Financial Review*



7 May 2008

CIS event space and library rededication

CIS launched the newly refurbished P. P. McGuinness Memorial Library and its expanded event space on Wednesday, 7 May 2008. Officiating was Australia's former Governor-General, The Hon. Bill Hayden, AC, who first opened the library in 1996. Paddy McGuinness's daughter, Parnell, talked about the need to keep intellectual debate alive and well in the hallowed grounds of the pub, where so much of her father's musings and argument took place. CIS research fellow Jennifer Buckingham and Dr Tanveer Ahmed, psychiatry registrar and writer, also gave speeches.





'State taxes are seriously flawed when measured against the usual criteria of economic efficiency, fairness and simplicity.'

Robert Carling in *The Australian Financial Review*

The welfare state

The Social Foundations Program research team's strong publication output this year has supplemented its speaking activities at CIS and external events.

Reforming the benefits system to get more people off welfare is important, but we also have to ask what kind of work welfare claimants might do. Peter Saunders looked at this in two Issue Analyses with the shared title: *What Are Low Ability Workers to Do When Unskilled Jobs Disappear?* Part 1, published in December, and part 2, published in March, argued the case for expanding low-skilled job opportunities by lowering the minimum wage. Dropping tax rates at the same time would ensure that low-skilled workers' take-home pay stayed the same even as demand for their labour increased.

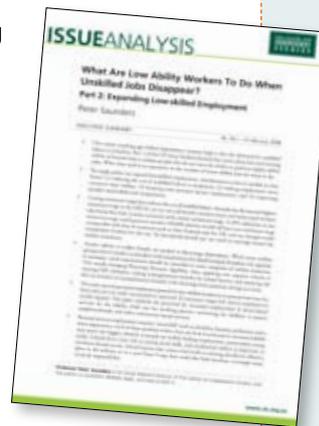
Peter Saunders released an Issue Analysis in June called *A Whiff of Compassion: The Attack on Mutual Obligation*. He argued that the principle of 'mutual obligation'—that welfare recipients should undertake some purposeful activity in return for their benefits—means nothing unless sanctions are applied against those who refuse to comply.

Before departing for England, Peter Saunders commissioned a publication entitled *Declaring Dependence, Declaring Independence*, outlining radical proposals to allow some people to opt out of the welfare state while others opted for paternalistic support within it. Contributors to this volume are John Humphreys, Eugene Dubossarsky and Stephen Samild, with an overview by Peter Saunders.

Tax reform

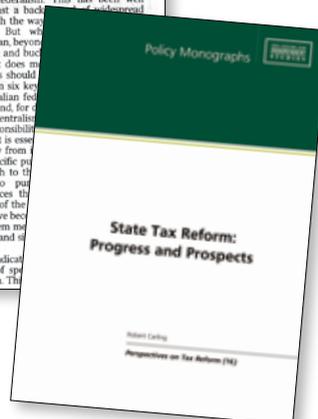
Robert Carling is the editor of the CIS's Perspectives on Tax Reform series. In his paper *State Tax Reform: Prospects and Progress*, the sixteenth in this series, Carling sets out a reform proposal to fix the two major issues in current state taxation: vertical fiscal imbalance, where the states' expenditure responsibilities far exceed their own revenue-raising powers, and deficiencies in the shrunken range of taxes that the states still have under their control.

Tax Freedom Day on 22 April and the 2020 Summit generated a lot of media interest in our ideas for the reform of state taxation and for defending income tax cuts against economists who think they are inflationary.



'Influential sections of the welfare lobby have for years been trying to weaken or undermine the primary emphasis on work requirements which drives the Job Network model and the 'mutual obligation' policy which it embodies.'

Peter Saunders in *The Australian*



could be one more newspaper clipping here

Obesity campaign is paternalistic: analyst

Mark Hetherell ... A CENTREPIECE of Kevin Rudd's health policy - preventive measures aimed at the obesity "epidemic" - lacks convincing international evidence, a conservative analyst, Jeremy Sammut, has said.

He also said "major claims" threaten to add to the cost pressures on Medicare.

"The Sammut criticism of the labor policy as paternalistic, implying which shifts responsibility for obesity from the individual to the Government.

The Government promise to provide 51 super clinics to expand access to a wider range of health services would probably increase challenges facing Medicare. Rather than generous savings to most taxpayers would fund additional recurrent costs of ineffective preventive care that yielded negligible benefits.

Dr Sammut, a historian, who writes in a paper published in *Health Affairs* for independent, studies said: "This suggests that, in the long-term, super clinics threaten to straiten, not solve, Medicare's unsustainability."

The Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon, objected Dr Sammut's claim, saying it must be one of the only health commentators in the country who do not believe that a greater effort to prevent lifestyle-related chronic diseases is urgently needed.

Mr Knox said there was a wide consensus that a greater focus on prevention was needed and there had never before been a serious effort made by the Commonwealth Government to tackle obesity.

Dr Sammut says a study of international evidence about benefits of preventive measures shows that behavioral change showed patchy outcomes. He challenges suggestions that an obesity campaign against obesity would work, arguing that it could not be compared to the anti-tobacco campaign.

"The success of the anti-smoking campaign compared with the relative failure of healthy diet and exercise campaigns points to the real and dramatic impact of the effectiveness of prevention," Dr Sammut says.

The shift from personal responsibility for the cause of lifestyle disease towards government was so absurd that this new obesity epidemic was now blamed on lack of entitlement to preventive care.

Having said obesity leads to serious health experts tacitly admitted that health education campaigns have not been as successful as hoped.

'The federal government has used skewed figures to justify its alcopop tax hike.'

Jeremy Sammut in *The Daily Telegraph*.'

Culture and community

In the Summer 2007–08 issue of *Policy*, **Peter Saunders** published an essay on capitalism, considering why so many people still believe it promotes a culture of selfishness and materialism. Peter is currently working with **Martin Stewart-Weeks** on a collection of essays looking at the threat to a vibrant 'third sector' posed by its growing dependence on government contracts and funding.

Health policy

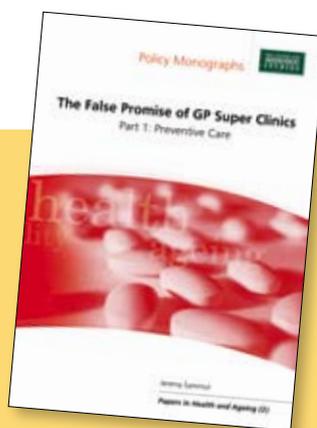
Jeremy Sammut's paper *The False Promise of GP Super Clinics, Part 1: Preventive Care*, released in May, is the third in the Papers on Health and Ageing series. This is the first of two papers looking at expenditure on so-called preventive health, and at the Rudd government's proposed new GP Super Clinics policy. Part 2, on coordinated care, was published at the end of June.

Jeremy has received significant media attention for his work on preventive health, particularly for his lucid analysis of a looming nanny state in the debates on alcopop taxes and the obesity 'epidemic.'

The Social Foundations team collaborated on an essay for the Autumn 2008 issue of *Policy*, debunking 'Six Social Policy Myths.' It explodes unsupported assumptions driving social policy spending in areas including child care, welfare, and preventive health.

'Our physical surroundings constantly transmit messages to us about social norms.'

Peter Saunders in *The Sydney Morning Herald*.





INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS RESEARCH PROGRAM



'The Indigenous permit system has not been used to protect property rights and privacy, but to protect monopoly businesses and prevent access to whistleblowers from exposing grievances.'

Sara Hudson in The Australian and Northern Territory News.'

The CIS Indigenous Affairs Research Program has continued to contribute to the debate on educational problems facing Indigenous communities, with the release of a policy monograph by CIS senior fellow **Helen Hughes**, *Indigenous Education in the Northern Territory* and an article in the March edition of *Quadrant*, *Strangers in Their Own Country: A Diary of Hope*, both papers attracted considerable media attention.

At a conference hosted by the University of Southern Queensland in June, the CIS presented a seminar on closing the gap in literacy and numeracy achievement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

In January, new full-time policy analyst **Sara Hudson** started work in the Indigenous Affairs Research Program. Sara debuted with an opinion piece on the permit system in the Northern Territory, and is currently working on a Policy Monograph describing the evolution of the Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) scheme, and how it has failed to meet its objectives. This paper is scheduled for release in early July.

Future work will maintain the program's focus on Indigenous labour-force participation. This is a principal determinant of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander income, health, housing, and social characteristics. An upcoming paper will analyse where Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders live in relation to labour markets. Although the Indigenous housing problem is well known, few practical policy solutions have been proposed. Following on from the 2005 Hughes-Warin paper on ninety-nine-year leases that have now been legislated, a paper on private housing tentatively entitled *A New Deal for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in Remote Communities* is also due out in the second half of 2008.



'The separate curriculums followed by indigenous schools are a form of apartheid.'

Helen Hughes in The Australian.'



Phil Rennie published his seventh Issue Analysis on New Zealand policy, *Kiwisaver or KiwiSucker? A Critical View* on 7 May 2008. The report critiques New Zealand's new government-subsidised saving scheme, KiwiSaver, showing that it is pointless, unfair, unstable, and highly expensive.

Rennie also made two contributions to *Policy* magazine for 2008. 'Explaining the Gap: Are Aussies and Kiwis that Different?' looked at cultural differences between New Zealanders and Australians. His short analysis of why Australians are wealthier than New Zealanders forms part of the Autumn issue's feature article 'Six Social Policy Myths.'

The CIS's work on New Zealand has received considerable media attention in 2008. Phil Rennie alone had ten opinion pieces published in the New Zealand press since December 2007. CIS generated twenty-one print mentions and news articles in New Zealand, twelve radio interviews, and at least thirty-five mentions in blogs and other online sources of news and commentary.

In his time with the CIS, **Phil Rennie** has made great inroads into debates on public policy in New Zealand. Rennie left the Centre in May to travel and work in the UK. The CIS's new policy analyst for the New Zealand Unit, Luke Palmass, will commence his role in August.

'As painful as it is to admit, everyone knows that Australians are richer than New Zealanders, with wages a third higher on average across the ditch.'

Phil Rennie in the Dominion Post

Big Ideas to Super-size New Zealand's Economy

CIS held a public forum at Quay West Suites in Auckland on April 15, entitled '**Big Ideas to Super-Size New Zealand's Economy.**' The four guest speakers were **Dr Don Brash**, former Reserve Bank Governor and National Party leader; **Dr David Skilling**, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Institute; **Andrew Little**, National Secretary of the Engineering, Printing, and Manufacturing Union, and the CIS's **Phil Rennie**.

The event sold out a week in advance, with one hundred people attending. A lively question time followed presentations from each speaker.



'The total cost of KiwiSaver subsidies will soon reach at least NZ\$2 billion a year. This is more than the New Zealand government spends annually on its entire defense force.'

Phil Rennie in the Wall Street Journal Asia



'If words were a substitute for action, Solomon Islands would be rich.'

Gaurav Sodhi in the Canberra Times and New Zealand's National Business Review..



The Pacific

Policy analyst **Gaurav Sodhi** continued his work on development in the Pacific with his paper **Five Out of Ten: A Performance Review of RAMSI**. This paper received strong coverage in the Australian and Solomon Islands media, and was also discussed at cabinet level in Honiara.

In Australia, the Rudd government looks increasingly likely to endorse a guest-workers scheme for the Pacific. On the research front, our team is currently in the middle of a comprehensive review of Pacific development and what Australia should be doing about it. This will be included in an upcoming book that will provide an overview of development progress (or lack thereof) in the Pacific and of what needs to be done in the region.

'Through a combination of awards, perks and government largesse, the Chinese Communist Party has done a good job of co-opting and appeasing the newly emerging middle classes within the country.'

John Lee in the Courier Mail Review..

China

The CIS's work on China this year has focused interest and debate on the relationship between China's economy and its political structure. For CIS visiting fellow **John Lee**, research and media commentary on China's internal challenges and foreign policy, and their impact on Australia and the region remained a priority. His work continued to look at the deepening imbalances in the Chinese economy and the sustainability of its economic growth

at current levels, the consequences of rising inflation and its links with social unrest, the prospect for political reform and democratisation in China, and current developments in Chinese civil society.

In May, the CIS released a report by Lee on the progress of political reform in China, **Putting Democracy in China on Hold**. Comment and opinions on these topics were published in major newspapers including *The Australian* and the *Weekend Australian*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and the *The Age*. International coverage involved the London-based *The Guardian*, and Hong Kong's *Far Eastern Economic Review*. Lee gave frequent radio interviews for a number of capital city stations, and was interviewed by SBS and ABC television in Australia, and by BBC Television in London. He delivered a speech on the future of China at an event hosted by the Malaysian Consulate, also in London. Meanwhile, Lee continues work on a forthcoming book on the extent and limits of Chinese influence and power in Southeast Asia.





IDEAS ON THE HORIZON

Members of the CIS research team offer their views on this year's big issues



Jessica Brown

The trend towards populist politics is concerning. Media management and vote-buying stunts too often subsume sound and principled policy. As a result government keeps expanding as politicians promise more.

Jennifer Buckingham

Are schools educational institutions in the academic sense, or are they agencies of social change? How we answer this question is crucial to formulating the best approach to school funding, school autonomy, and parental choice.



Robert Carling

The federal government's tax review represents a great opportunity to improve the system, but also a risk that it will be hijacked by the 'fairness' industry at the expense of economic efficiency and simplification.

Owen Harries

After Bush, will the US rebound or flounder?



Geoff Hogbin

The government's proposed labour market regulations must be rigorously analysed before they are enacted, to safeguard against long-term unemployment and impaired productivity.

Sara Hudson

Easy money from welfare payments has stunted the career aspirations of many Indigenous people. Poverty of the mind is more crippling than financial poverty. People who are uneducated do not have true freedom, because they lack the capabilities to make real choices about their lives.



Helen Hughes

Over 80% of the Indigenous population aged fifteen to sixty-four are unemployed, yet they live within commuting distance of jobs. Unless the crisis in Indigenous education is addressed, this cycle of unemployment, welfare dependence, and high levels of family and social dysfunction is set to continue.

John Lee

China continues to dominate economic and foreign affairs in our region, but its internal social and economic tensions may affect what is assumed to be a peaceful and successful rise to prosperity.



Phil Rennie

New Zealand's stubborn economic underperformance is an urgent challenge. Big government is strangling growth while Australia surges ahead. We need new ideas for reform.

Jeremy Sammut

In the age of the perpetual 'hospital crisis,' should 'free and universal' public hospital treatment be a thing of the past?



Peter Saunders

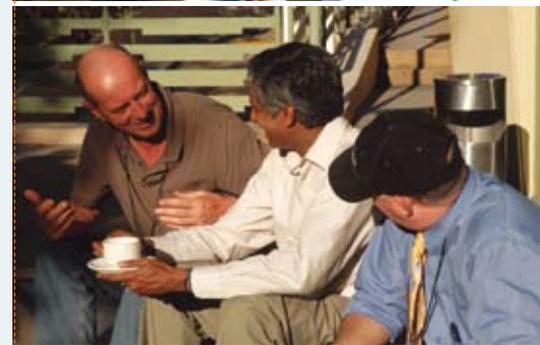
Economic growth means more people than ever before should be capable of looking after themselves. But for the past fifty years, the trend has been towards ever-increasing reliance on government. How do we reverse this trend and rekindle the spirit of self-reliance?



The 2008 Liberty & Society conference program got off to a great start, with a record number of applicants for the thirty places available at the April conference. As well as students working their way through degrees (many doing double degrees), we selected people who are recent graduates and are working for such diverse institutions as the High Court, the Attorney-General’s Department, the ACCC, and law firm Freehills.

As a sign of how well-regarded the program is, one of our past lecturers, **Professor Chandran Kukuthas**, who is now at the prestigious London School of Economics, organised his trip back to Australia so he could spend the weekend at the conference. **Professor Sinclair Davidson** from RMIT presented the economics lecture, and **Professor Suri Ratnapala** from the University of Queensland horrified students by highlighting the violations of property rights and the rule of law perpetrated by the Queensland Vegetation Act.

This conference was the final hurrah for **Professor Peter Saunders**, who has been a huge asset to the program in his time at the CIS. He is a passionate speaker who knows how to build great rapport with students, is intellectually unforgiving when presented with a weak argument, and yet at the same time is genuinely interested in what the students have to say. Peter takes the group away from the theory into the practical dilemmas of policymaking, and students always rate him very well. He will be sorely missed.



This year’s students rated the conference very highly, and went away motivated to try and get their ideas across. Here are some comments from attendees.

‘I sincerely believe that L&S is such an important vehicle in providing alternatives to what many students find unsatisfying in university.’

Lydia Bevege

‘L&S in itself is evidence of what people will do when they have the freedom—I am so grateful that individuals and companies who believe in liberalism were willing to fund the weekend. The development and spread of these ideas is so important. I expect to make full use of what I learned over the weekend in my future endeavours, and am excited about the prospect!’

Elise Parham

Thanks go to the individuals, companies, and foundations that support our student program. Without financial support, we would not be able to run the conferences or to make them so accessible to students from a range of backgrounds and locations. Travel is prohibitive for many students, so being able to significantly subsidise their costs is crucial to allow many to attend.

The program will continue apace in the second half of the year, with applications coming in for the second introductory Liberty & Society conference in August, and for the advanced conference in October.





The CIS raises all of its funds from membership subscriptions and donations from individuals, foundations, and the corporate sector. Our willingness to challenge poor public policy and present practical ideas for reform sets us apart from other public policy organisations—as does our insistence on complete independence from government by relying solely on private donations.

The Federal and Victorian state governments announced the establishment of a new think tank in May 2008, with a \$30 million grant from taxpayers. CIS welcomes contributions from all sides in the competition of ideas, but the establishment of yet another government-funded research body emphasises the importance of the CIS's independence. Our autonomy is crucial—it means the CIS is free to evaluate government policies objectively, and it sets us apart from a plethora of government agencies and other think tanks.

Our supporters' financial contributions strengthen our capacity to promote the ideas and institutions that underpin a free society, and allow us to continue our role as one of the few truly independent voices in public policy in Australia and New Zealand.

CIS Capital Campaign

To mark the CIS's thirtieth Anniversary in 2006, a Capital Fund was established to ensure the Centre's long-term financial viability. We are currently close to having raised \$5 million, and are about to embark on the next stage: seeking greater involvement from the corporate sector. The CIS Capital Fund will increase the Centre's influence by

- expanding and developing both existing and new research programs
- attracting leading scholars to endowed research positions
- increasing the Centre's capacity to bring together people with a passion for liberty
- strengthening the Centre's financial independence
- giving financial stability to the Centre's upcoming major growth phase

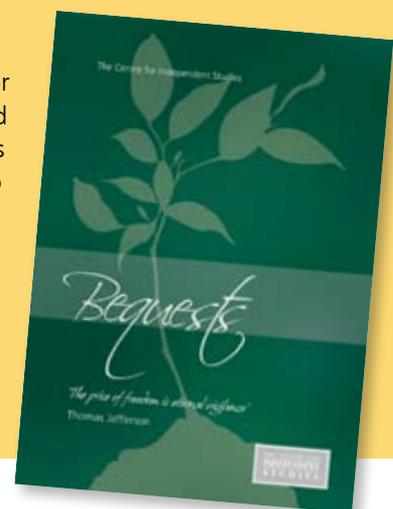
If you are interested in making a donation to CIS, please contact CIS development officer Elise Yates at eyates@cis.org.au.

Bequests

The CIS is launching its Bequest Program, offering an opportunity for members, friends, and like-minded individuals to make a meaningful and lasting gift to the Centre's work. A bequest may be allocated to the Centre's general activities or to a specific purpose. Alternatively, you may choose to contribute to the Endowment Fund, making your gift last in perpetuity.

Gifts can be given as cash, property, or shares.

If you are interested in a making a bequest, the CIS would love the opportunity to discuss this with you. Please contact the bequests officer by email at development@cis.com.au or by telephone on (02) 9438 4377.





Distinguished fellows

The CIS recognises a special category of supporters who, in various ways, have been significant long-term contributors to the Centre and its work. In May, CIS made its social research director, **Peter Saunders**, part of this eminent group. Peter's work on welfare reform, taxation, churning, and civility has been enormously influential in promoting the Centre's goals of liberty and self-reliance, and also in shaping Australian society.

Since his appointment in 2001, Peter has delivered speeches on his work at more than forty public forums, conferences, and institutional events. Peter's research output has been remarkable, with twenty-six CIS publications including research papers, edited collections, and four books, along with hundreds of opinion and commentary pieces published externally. He has an incredibly strong media profile, and has appeared in print and on radio almost weekly.

It is often difficult for a think tank to claim it has directly changed public policy, but Peter's influence can be seen right across Australia's social welfare landscape. He successfully challenged claims that one in eight Australians are in poverty, securing official recognition from the Australian Bureau of Statistics that income data on the bottom ten percent are too unreliable to be used. He championed reform of income support payments, particularly Parenting Payment. The CIS's argument on work requirements for single mothers with school-age children directly influenced the reforms introduced in 2005.

The CIS wishes Peter a happy future with his family in England, and looks forward to his contributions to its work from afar.

INSERT PICS OF PETE AT DINNER

The Centre also appointed **Michael Chaney** and **John Calvert-Jones** as distinguished fellows at a celebratory dinner in June, recognising their outstanding support of the Centre over a period of many years.

GREG TO GIVE A FEW LINES

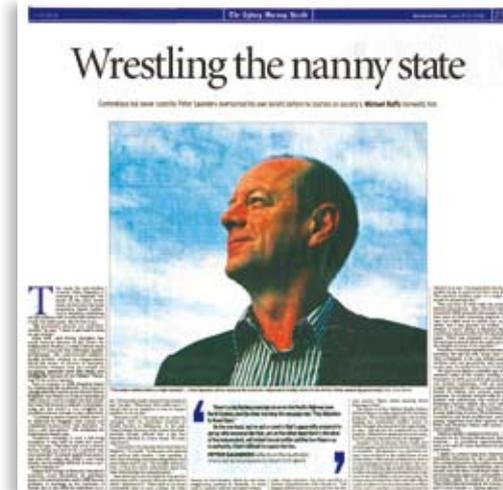
INSERT PICS OF CHANEY ETC AT DINNER



'Forcing people to pay a new regressive and unfair tax to pay for health prevention will lead only to more taxpayer money being wasted promoting a lifestyle message to people who have chosen to disregard it.'

Jeremy Sammut in *The Australian*

Media coverage of CIS research is one of the cornerstones of our influence on public policy debates. CIS researchers write opinion pieces based on their work, which are published in national, capital city, and regional newspapers. Sometimes these opinion pieces are reactive, offering the Centre's perspective on the issues of the day, which are often picked up for quotation by other media outlets including radio and online news sources. CIS research is quoted regularly in print, and the Centre is pleased to set the news agenda with its comprehensive research on otherwise hidden topics



such as Indigenous education, democracy's stall in China, policy myths such as those involved in the fad for preventive health care and the faulty argument that more training will get long-term welfare recipients into jobs.

So far in 2008, the CIS has had **eighty (til end May – update with June)** opinion pieces published in Australia and overseas. Newspapers publishing our opinions include *The Australian*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, the *Courier Mail*, the *West Australian*, the *Canberra Times*, the *Dominion Post*, New Zealand's *National Business Review*, and *Wall Street Journal Asia*.

Since January 2008, the CIS has also been mentioned in around two hundred articles published in news media including the *Herald Sun*, the *Australian Financial Review*, *MX*, *Northern Territory News*, the *New Zealand Herald*, the *International Herald Tribune*, and the *Far East Economic Review*.

CIS researchers have been interviewed on radio 150 times this year so far. CIS work and commentary is also making strong inroads online, stirring blog debates and generating coverage in electronic news outlets. The Centre is looking forward to working with *ABC Fora*, a new digital content website and television program run by the ABC to broadcast seminars, speeches, and debates on political and philosophical ideas.

In the first half of 2008, the CIS's biggest media splash has been **Helen Hughes'** groundbreaking Policy Monograph **Indigenous Education in the Northern Territory**. This paper promptly forced the Northern Territory education minister Marion Scrymgour to admit that the appalling state of education among Indigenous children in outback communities was due to government policy failure.





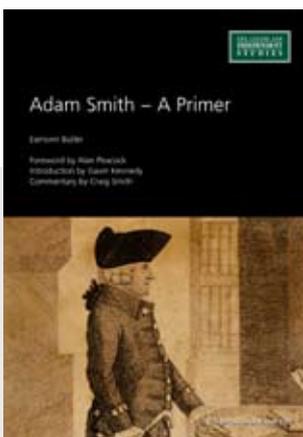
This year *Policy* has pushed forward with an appetite for change. From the Autumn issue, the magazine has inaugurated an opinion section that gives us an opportunity to publish responses to current issues in a shorter format than our in-depth features. So far, opinion pieces have criticised new election finance regulations in Australia and New Zealand, and examined education equality in Australia and the dubious phenomenon of measuring all national achievement against the OECD average.

Starting with the Summer 2007–08 issue, *Policy* covers this year showcase a new, bolder, and brighter design strategy. Credit goes to CIS publications manager **Abby French** for creating these reinvigorating images.

The covers highlight a selection of the most outstanding articles from the year to date, including a feature on six social policy myths by **Jennifer Buckingham, Andrew Norton, Phil Rennie, Jeremy Sammut, and Peter Saunders**, and **Christian Siebert's** recent article on the detrimental effect parking regulations have on our cities.

Another cover story, and one of the year's highlights, has been **Peter Saunders' 'Why Capitalism is Good for the Soul.'** This defence of capitalism's ability to satisfy human aspirations has generated a huge amount of domestic and international interest. After being noted by the influential web digest *Arts and Letters Daily* in January 2008, requests for permission to reprint have seen it translated into German for the monthly intellectual journal *Merkur* (May 2008), and into Hebrew for the Israeli free-market website *Kivunim*. It has also appeared in the US in the Spring 2008 edition of the Heritage Foundation's magazine *The Insider*.

As *Policy* continues to publish articles of such considerable impact, the upcoming Spring issue for 2008 will see a former editor of the magazine, **Sue Windybank**, return as guest editor to assist regular editor **Andrew Norton**.



Adam Smith—A Primer

In June, the CIS published a reprint of **Adam Smith—A Primer** by **Eamonn Butler**, director and co-founder of the Adam Smith Institute. This is an authoritative introduction to Smith's life and work, whose arguments are still highly relevant to policymakers today.

To order CIS publications visit our online bookshop via www.cis.org.au



ePreCIS

The CIS electronic news bulletin, ePreCIS, keeps subscribers informed about CIS news, events, publications and research. To receive ePreCIS on a monthly basis, please contact our Public Affairs Officer with your subscription request at media@cis.org.au or on (02) 9438 4377. Alternatively, you can subscribe via the CIS website www.cis.org.au



New CIS staff

Meegan Boughton, events manager

Meegan has ten years experience in event management, marketing, and promotions, having worked for organisations such as the Australian National Maritime Museum, the Australian Human Resources Institute, the Olympic Coordination Authority, and the Investigator Science and Technology Centre. Prior to joining the CIS in January 2008, Meegan spent two years living in Argentina before freelancing as a writer and editor of corporate materials and non-fiction books.



Jessica Brown, policy analyst

Jessica Brown joined the CIS's Social Foundations Program as a policy analyst in February. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Arts with honours from the University of Melbourne, where she majored in political science. Jessica is also currently completing a Master of International Studies at the University of Sydney. Jessica's work at the CIS focuses on the balance between work and family in relation to public policy.



Sara Hudson, policy analyst

Sara Hudson was appointed a policy analyst in the Indigenous affairs research program in January. Sara has an honours degree in anthropology and criminology, and a background in policy and evaluation. She has worked as a policy advisor for the Department of Labour in New Zealand, and in the Evaluation Unit of the New Zealand Police.



I'm going to add a picture from level 2 this afternoon when the sun is at the back of the building.

Leonie, would you have time today to write a para about the renovations?



CIS STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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'We must make the building of a free society once more an intellectual adventure, a deed of courage. If we can regain that belief in the power of ideas which was the mark of liberalism at its best, the battle is not lost.'

F. A. Hayek



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