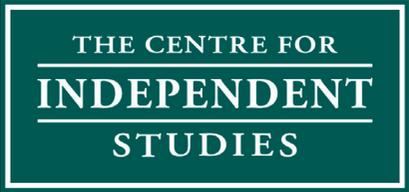




# PréCIS

The Centre for Independent Studies  
**ANNUAL REVIEW 2016**



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# 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

Well, what a year 2016 has been. The result of the US presidential election caught many by surprise. The earlier results in the UK — both the election and the Brexit plebiscite — the federal election here to some extent and unexpected results elsewhere, point to a restlessness in the electorate, but also a more fundamental set of problems afflicting modern democracies such as ours. These surprises will almost certainly continue.

For CIS the year has been especially significant as we turned 40. Much of the activity is outlined in this issue of *Précis*. I'll highlight just a few.

Firstly the move. As 2015 was closing, we knew that with the impending redevelopment of the St Leonards building we had occupied since 1990, we would have to find something new. The journey of exploration went from St Leonards to North Sydney and then, the CBD of Sydney. What was a bit unexpected at the start of this quest was that we'd end up not only in the city after 40 years on the North Shore, but in premises that we would purchase. A terrific way to kick off 2016 as our 40th year.

It seems like a bit of a blur now, but from signing the purchase contract, then organising partial finance, planning a fundraising campaign, fitting out the new office and moving in was only around three months. Importantly, when asked, the Centre's wonderful and committed supporters stepped up. So much so that we are well on the way to extinguishing the loan we had taken out. Our aim is to reach that goal sometime in 2017, and it's because of the dedication to the CIS of so many that this is a realistic possibility.

To highlight and celebrate our 40 years, of course we were going to have a great party — and so we did, at the Art Gallery of New South Wales just across from our new home in Macquarie St. A full house heard from a number of speakers, including Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Niall Ferguson and me, and finished off by bagpipes, thus reinforcing our intellectual heritage in the Scottish Enlightenment.

But there were also four major talks throughout the year to mark our 40th, that we called our Lighthouse Lectures. Delivered by Anthony Daniels (Theodore Dalrymple), Niall



Ferguson, PJ O'Rourke and David Kilcullen, three were delivered in the Sydney Opera House and all up nearly 4,500 people made up the audiences. A good way to mark 40 years of ideas leadership, so Happy Birthday CIS!

The enlarged function space in our new premises, now named the Michael Darling Room, has also seen a considerable increase in our in-house events and truly ranks CIS as a 'centre' for such things, especially in iconic Macquarie St.

With everything discussed above seemingly occupying all our time, the research team continued with its high level of output, and along with *Policy* magazine our publications programme powered on. Media coverage of our work is at record levels and that's in a market that's becoming more crowded, but also one where traditional media is in decline.

All in all, a good year. There's much more I could highlight, but please read on through *Précis*. Of course those pages record the past year, but what's ahead?

More of the same in the sense that our major research focuses will continue: taxation and government spending; school education and in particular our Five From Five literacy project; an enlarged Indigenous affairs programme (did you see the breakthrough we had on domestic violence in Indigenous communities?); health innovations; religion and civil society, and much more.

Two areas will be receiving attention and I see them as distinct, but related. These are the future of work, and what we have been calling the 'democracy' project. The latter looks to address the surprises I alluded to earlier. A lot of the discontent that's poisoning our public life requires us to re-think the relationship between the individual and the state. If not, what I term democratic over-reach will overwhelm the citizenry through taxation, regulation and government programmes that have no place in a free society.

Yes, in mid-year we concluded an election campaign with the government barely returned. And yes, our politicians — driven by the mathematics of electoral necessity — seem unable to resist the urge to spend money we don't have and thus throw the burden to the next generation. This era of 'all you can eat' democracy has to stop. This would be a more useful campaign against obesity than the busy-bodding that's afflicting us at a personal level.

It's been my privilege to work with two groups of people committed to furthering the CIS mission. The CIS team whose endeavours are outlined in these pages are unflinching in their efforts. Much of the work goes on behind the scenes, but all has the same objective.

The Centre's Board continues its active support and supervisory role in the Centre's affairs and I am delighted that during the year we were able to welcome Melinda Conrad, Sam Kennard and Philippa Stone as members.

So, to 2017. I expect that we'll also be seeing a few more surprises to add to those of this year. This will further underpin the critical role that CIS is performing if the cherished institutions that have nourished our freedoms are to continue.

Thanks to all who have supported us in the past and in particular during the momentous 40th anniversary year. We can be satisfied with those 40 years, but also restless about the next 40 — though just one year at a time, with a sharp focus on those beyond.

*Greg Lindsay*

28  
PUBLICATIONS  


POLICY  
4  
Editions of  
POLICY

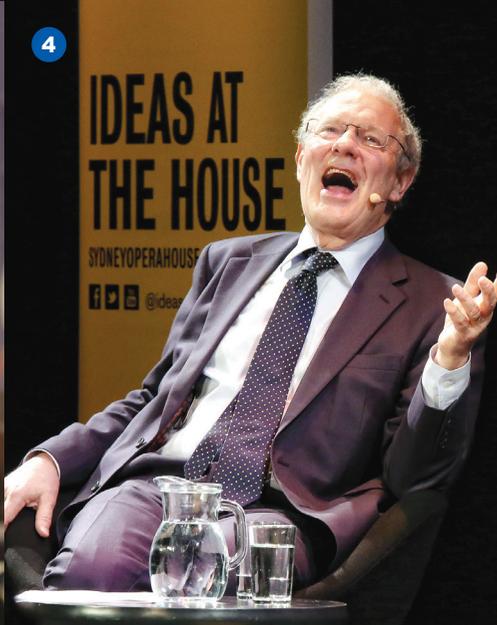
46  
EVENTS  


1  
LIBERTY &  
SOCIETY  
STUDENT  
CONFERENCES  


40  
VIDEOS  


9,700  
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS  


270,000  
WEBSITE  
VISITORS  

1. Close to 2000 people came to hear Niall Ferguson at the Sydney Opera House. PHOTO: DANIEL BOUD
2. PJ O'Rourke entertained the Sydney Opera House with his take on the US election. PHOTO: PRUDENCE UPTON
3. The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer and internationally renowned anti-radicalism commentator Ayaan Hirsi Ali.
4. A jovial Theodore Dalrymple delivers a CIS Lighthouse Lecture at the Sydney Opera House. PHOTO: PRUDENCE UPTON
5. Niall Ferguson on stage during his CIS Lighthouse Lecture at the Sydney Opera House. PHOTO: DANIEL BOUD
6. Dr David Kilcullen in conversation with Tom Switzer.





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## 40th Anniversary Special Events

### *Celebrating 40 years of policy research and independent thinking*

2016 marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the CIS as one of Australasia's leading public policy think tanks.

The anniversary coincided with our move to a new office in Macquarie Street, Sydney, across the road from the beautiful Botanic Gardens and right in the midst of Sydney's business, banking, cultural and political action.

Our 40th birthday party was held on 20 May amongst the sandstone, terrazzo and artistic grandeur of the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Special guests economic historian Professor Niall Ferguson and womens' rights

activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali joined the VIP crowd for a night of laughter, reminiscing, bagpipes and a call to arms for supporters to remain eternally vigilant against a creeping tide of big government.

The year was also marked with a series of Lighthouse Lectures, kindly supported by Virgin Australia and organised to provide illumination on matters critical to freedom.

We were proud to have a number of illustrious international scholars accept our invitation to present a Lighthouse Lecture, including psychiatrist Dr Theodore Dalrymple, Professor Niall Ferguson mentioned above, and political satirist PJ O'Rourke, as well as Australian counterinsurgency expert Dr David Kilcullen. We thank the Sydney Opera House for their generous partnership in staging these lectures.



The CIS first home (inset) and our new permanent one in Sydney's CBD



## Then ... and now

***Not only does 2016 mark 40 years for the Centre, but it has also been the start of an exciting new chapter.***

After 36 years in St Leonards, we have purchased permanent headquarters at 131 Macquarie Street, right in heart of the cultural and historical centre of Sydney, and to a meaningful degree, the country.

It is the latest step in a history that was started in a backyard shed in 1976. From these humble beginnings, CIS has developed into an organisation at the forefront of social and economic debate.

By 1980, CIS finally went from being a 'spare time' backyard operation to a full-blown organisation in offices above Uncle Pete's Toys in St Leonards. In 1990, the CIS moved up the road to 38 Oxley St, St Leonards.

And now 26 years later we have settled into our permanent home in Macquarie St. The new location has been a real game changer for our ability to engage with the wider world: CEOs, renowned thinkers and Ministers are now regularly able to drop in to debate with our researchers with great ease. With a purpose-built events space, dedicated media facilities and a larger research area, the new office is allowing the Centre the much-needed capacity to meet the

increasing demands for new analysis and policy ideas – and give us room to grow in the future.

Best of all, it secures CIS's central place in Australia's ideas landscape for years to come. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our board, members and a number of other generous supporters who have already contributed to help us towards our aim of becoming debt free.

We are indebted to a community of friends, supporters and industry colleagues who share in our vision for the Centre to keep producing groundbreaking research and ideas on the issues that matter.

***The promotion of free enterprise, individual responsibility and limited government has never been more important, and we are proud to lead this new chapter in CIS history. We hope that you will join us in not only celebrating our progress but also investing in the future of the Centre for Independent Studies.***

Students discuss the classical liberal ideas presented in the Liberty and Society lecture program



## Liberty & Society Student Program

***The Liberty and Society student program has for 20 years been a great networking tool for young people who want to pursue their interest in classical liberal ideas.***

It has allowed the CIS to build relationships with young bright, ambitious individuals, a number of whom are now bringing intellectual ammunition to government, academia and business. In addition it has spurred L&S alumni to develop other groups and organisations, for example the Australian Libertarian Society, Australia Taxpayers Alliance, Australian and New Zealand Students for Liberty and the reconstituted Australian Libertarian Party.

The 2016 conference in Sydney was a particularly strong event with a group of young people who, apart from their good academic results, were involved in community or political groups and most already had a serious interest in classical liberal ideas. This meant many had read the foundational writers such as Hume, Smith and Hayek, which allowed us to push the discussions well past first principles.

The CIS is grateful for the consistent support from individual donors and foundations including the



Lyngara Foundation and Mannkal Foundation for Economic Freedom. This support allows us to offer generous scholarships to all attendees and ensures all students are able to apply. Conferences will be held in Melbourne and Perth in 2017.

# Economics

***The CIS Economics Program argues for policy reform for economic growth, including free trade, deregulation, lower taxes, increased competition and privatisation, reduced government duplication and waste, and increased personal responsibility and self-reliance.***

With growing concern over trade deals, CIS provided a much-needed counter to mistaken views with the research report ***Investor-State Arbitration and the Rule of Law: Debunking the Myths***. CIS supported the proposal for a corporate tax cut in a submission to the Senate Inquiry. The majority final report of the Inquiry quoted extensively from CIS' submission, which was also released as a research report: ***Fix it or fail: why we must cut company tax now***. The economics team also critiqued the government's superannuation changes in a special ***Policy*** journal feature section.

Robert Carling, Michael Potter and TARGET30 program director Simon Cowan had numerous opeds and news articles published on those issues, and their opinions and views on negative gearing, personal tax (including bracket creep), GST, state tax reform, free trade, 'helicopter money', youth training, employment, penalty rates, skilled migration, welfare dependence and competition policy were also widely published.

The economics team supervised two interns: Matthew Stocks and Miguel Forjaz, with the latter being supported by a scholarship from the Mannkal Foundation.

Economics sessions at Consilium in 2016 included **The Selfish Generation: is the Intergenerational**



Michael Potter and Robert Carling

**Compact Broken?** featuring the Assistant Treasurer, Kelly O'Dwyer, and Shadow Assistant Treasurer, Andrew Leigh; **Perpetual Tug of War: Bigger Government versus Lower Taxes**, featuring the Minister for Social Security, Christian Porter and New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Bill English; **Should we worry about inequality?** featuring Professor Roger Wilkins and David Alexander; and **The Economists' Conversation**.

CIS hosted an event to discuss the paper on Australia's growing tax burden, and a roundtable discussion with Troy Lanigan from the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation on international experience with tax reform.

Michael Potter participated in a roundtable on company tax reform with PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Australian Financial Review, Robert Carling and Michael Potter spoke at Tax Institute of Australia conferences, and Robert attended the Mont Pelerin Society general meeting in the US.

# 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.*

It has not been a good year for believers in free markets and smaller government. Almost no progress has been made to reduce spending, while the pressure is on to increase taxes, government spending, regulation, restriction and protectionism. However TARGET30 continues to examine and prosecute the case for smaller government with several hard hitting reports released this year — but the task ahead is huge.

2016 saw a companion piece to last year's seminal report on the age pension. Looking at the intergenerational impacts of Australia's largest welfare payment, ***The myths of the generational bargain*** found the pension was placing an unfair burden on future generations. The report sparked another huge response from the media

CIS Senior Fellow Robert Carling drew on his extensive experience in the tax area for the report ***Taming the Monster: Reforming Personal Income Tax*** answered hard questions about the fairness of the system, noting that taxes had become more progressive, not less, over time. He argued that the top marginal rate should be 35%



Simon Cowan

CIS Research Fellow Michael Potter did some very important work for TARGET30 on the size of the overall tax impost with the report ***The case against tax increases in Australia: The growing burden.***

The TARGET30 message continues to lead to a number of invitations for senior CIS staff to speak at conferences and events, including the Post Retirement Conference 2016, where CIS Research Manager Simon Cowan was a keynote speaker.

Consilium again saw a TARGET30 session: ***The Selfish Generation: is the intergenerational compact broken?*** in which Minister for Revenue and Financial Services Kelly O'Dwyer and Labor frontbencher Andrew Leigh discussed whether government spending had tilted too far in favour of the baby boomer generation at the expense of their children and grandchildren.

# Education and Early Childhood

*CIS continued its strong work in education and early childhood research during the year, with two rigorous reports and considerable media attention on our policy proposals.*

The research report ***One School Does Not Fit All*** by Dr Jennifer Buckingham and Trisha Jha challenged the common school stereotypes, showing that the government, Catholic, and independent school sectors each enrol students from a wide range of socioeconomic, geographic, and demographic populations. It presented a statistical profile of the three sectors and showcased the diversity of educational provision.

***Early Childhood Interventions: Assessing the evidence*** by Trisha Jha reviewed the evidence for 11 Australian early childhood intervention programs and identified a number of issues with the strength of the evidence, and policies that are being implemented by Australian governments. The report led to successful meetings in Canberra with relevant politicians and advisers, and provided the impetus for a roundtable jointly hosted by Trisha Jha with Sara Hudson from the CIS's Indigenous program. The roundtable brought together representatives from charitable foundations, government, and academia to discuss problems in the evidence base for social policy initiatives.

Media output in TV, radio and print has been strong. Jennifer remains a key national source of commentary on school education matters, and Trisha's reputation as a commentator on childcare grew. Trisha had her third appearance on ABC's Q&A in October, where she was



Dr Jennifer Buckingham and Trisha Jha

able to discuss her latest research. Jennifer has been in demand as a speaker on education policy, including the Australian Heads of Independent Schools National Forum in Canberra and the Trans-Tasman Principals Conference in Auckland.

Jennifer and Trisha made submissions to two Productivity Commission inquiries: the Inquiry into Human Services and the Inquiry into the National Evidence Base for Education.

Trisha left CIS in November after three years, having accepted a placement in the highly competitive Teach for Australia program. The process of hiring a replacement is under way.

# FIVE from FIVE literacy program

*Since its major launch at NSW Parliament House in March, the FIVE from FIVE project has continued to be influential in furthering child literacy.*

The federal government included a FIVE from FIVE proposal for a phonics screening check in its May 2016 budget policy platform. The NSW government announced that the Reading Recovery program would become optional in NSW schools from 2017, following strong advocacy from FIVE from FIVE. A new section of the website aimed at parents was launched in September, with endorsement from federal education minister Simon Birmingham in a feature story in the *Weekend Australian*.

As FIVE from FIVE director, Dr Jennifer Buckingham has been travelling around Australia to speak to federal and state ministers, opposition MPs and senators, advisors, senior policymakers, non-government school authorities, journalists, principals, teachers and parents.

**Key presentations** include a FIVE from FIVE parents forum in Perth, the National Catholic Education Commission Directors meeting in Sydney, Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association in Canberra, University of NSW literacy conference in Sydney, and numerous professional development seminars for teachers around NSW.

**Major CIS-hosted events** included the forums held in Brisbane and Sydney in November in conjunction with Noel Pearson and Good to Great Schools Australia on the topic of explicit and direct instruction; and roundtables in Sydney and Melbourne in June with



senior bureaucrats, academics, and ministerial advisors on the topic of the proposed Year 1 phonics screening check.

FIVE from FIVE produced two important reports. ***Read About It: Scientific Evidence for Effective Teaching of Reading***, authored by Dr Kerry Hempenstall and edited by Jennifer Buckingham, covered the extensive experimental evidence base for effective reading instruction that underpins the FIVE from FIVE project. ***Focus on Phonics: Why Australia should adopt the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check*** sets out the case for adopting the UK screening check with some simple adaptations.

The FIVE from FIVE alliance has been growing steadily and includes university-based research organisations, parent organisations, education providers, and reading specialists. Social media engagement with FIVE from FIVE is also increasing, tripling from August to October. The focus in 2017 will be on developing teaching resources and consolidating proposed policy changes in reading instruction.

# Healthcare Innovations Program

*The Health Innovation Program continues to focus attention on the key structural issues that increase the cost and lower the quality of Australian healthcare – while proposing politically-feasible and therefore practical reform ideas that will improve the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of the health system.*

Dr Jeremy Sammut's report ***Medi-Value: Health Insurance and Service Innovation in Australia – Implications for the Future of Medicare*** showed a truly innovative national health reform agenda requires significant structural change to the way health services are insured and purchased. It proposed integrated payment models that combine all health funding into one bundled payment.

The report ***Medi-Vation: 'Health Innovation Communities' for Medicare Payment and Service Reform***, co-authored by Jeremy, Peta Seaton and Gerald Thomas, proposed HICs as 'free trade zones' for health – geographic regions in which more cost-effective, integrated payment systems and models of care could be permitted to flourish.

The findings and significance of Medi-Vation were discussed at the ***Health Innovations II Forum*** in November featuring the authors and health policy consultant and commentator Terry Barnes.

Future work in the Health Innovations Program will focus on long-term solutions for the perennial sore that is high-cost, low-productivity state public hospital systems. A new report, Medi-Mess, will review the



Dr Jeremy Sammut

impact of federal involvement in state public hospital systems in recent decades, and set out how the federal government can reshape funding arrangements – including through a state income tax – to encourage the states to undertake overdue structural reforms, including greater privatisations.

The Centre for Independent Studies will also continue to advocate a comprehensive solution for Medicare's unsustainability in an ageing Australia – by allowing Australians to voluntarily opt-out of the Medicare, cash-out their taxpayer-funded health entitlements, and opt-in to Health Savings Accounts to save and spend their own health dollars.

# Indigenous Research Program

***The Indigenous Research Program has a two pronged approach — issues underpinning Indigenous disadvantage, such as family violence; and research into the drivers of economic development and Indigenous empowerment.***

The 2016 focus has been on how Indigenous funding is being used and where it is having the most impact.

Sara Hudson's research report, ***Mapping the Indigenous program and funding maze*** received nation-wide coverage and positive attention from academics and policy makers when it was released in August. Coverage included a front page news story and an editorial in *The Australian*, and an oped by Fred Chaney, former Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party as well as other news stories. Sara was also interviewed on T.V and radio, including the ABC News 24, NITV, the Sky News *Beattie and Reith* program, the *Alan Jones Show* and ABC Radio's *PM* show.

Sara made several trips to Canberra to meet with Ministers and a trip to East Arnhem Land to reconnect with the Banyala community.

Two events to highlight the epidemic of violence in Indigenous communities received national coverage. Jacinta Price gave the inaugural ***Helen Hughes Lecture for Emerging Thinkers on Indigenous violence — Homeland Truths***. A National Press Club address, ***Ending Indigenous Violence***, saw Professor Marcia Langton AM, Jacinta Price and Josephine Cashman speak about family violence and policy levers for change.



Sara Hudson

A roundtable with 20 business leaders and academics explored whether the corporate sector could do more to support Indigenous businesses. A second roundtable focused on growing the evidence base for effective social programs and was attended by academics, philanthropists and representatives from government.

Sara Hudson was invited to speak at several events throughout the year including an event organised by the NSW Reconciliation Council and Sydney University for Reconciliation week; a National Indigenous Economic Development Forum in Darwin and a presentation to the NSW Government's Social Innovation Council.

In 2017 the Indigenous Research Program will focus on identifying the practical measures that will enable Indigenous communities to improve their economic outcomes.

# Religion & Civil Society

*The CIS's Religion & Civil Society program explores the contribution that religion and religious practice makes to a liberal society and evaluates the ways in which religion enhances social capital in civil society.*

The principal contributor to the program is Research Fellow Peter Kurti whose work has dovetailed with that of former Policy Analyst Helen Andrews in the Social Foundations program.

Opinion pieces and commentary on religion and civil society have been sought by *The Australian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Quadrant*, and *The Spectator Australia*; ABC TV's *Compass*, *The Drum*, and *Q&A*; *Sky News* and the *Bolt Report*; ABC Radio's *The Religion & Ethics Report* and *Counterpoint*; and ABC 702, 2GB and 2UE.

In a major research report published in July 2016, ***The Democratic Deficit: How Minority Fundamentalism Threatens Liberty in Australia***, Peter Kurti explored the ways in which the rise of identity politics and the assertion of minority 'rights' is posing a threat to the shared assumptions underpinning a liberal democracy.

In April, a Round Table discussion investigated ways of countering Islamic militancy among Australian Muslim youths and assessed the efficacy of Islamic de-radicalisation programs. The contributors were Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Denis Dragovic, and Tanveer Ahmed.

Peter Kurti also spoke at Campion College on issues of religion and religious liberty, and addressed a lunch on the same subject at the Heritage Foundation in Washington DC.



Peter Kurti

The **2016 Acton Lecture: *Rediscovering Humility: Religious Freedom*** in a 21st Century Pluralist Society was delivered by Tim Wilson MP.

Australia's multicultural project has been one of the most effective in the world. Our society is built on tolerating religious and cultural differences. Fundamental rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion are, however, under threat from legislation and from pressures for social change which threaten to marginalise religious believers.

Pressure to enforce tolerance and avoid offending minority groups means that patterns of Australian religious practice may change. The RCS program will continue to explore the influence and impact of religion in Australia, and to defend the religious foundations of liberty.

# Scholar-in-Residence

***The 2016 CIS Max Hartwell Scholar-in-Residence was Dr Tony Daniels, more widely known as the acerbic –and prolific – British author and commentator Theodore Dalrymple.***

The ‘Sceptical Doctor’ as he is often referred to by his broad international fan base was the Centre’s Scholar-in-Residence during April.

The former prison doctor, psychiatrist and author of *Life at the Bottom*, whose trenchant analysis of Britain’s multi-generational underclasses exposes unpalatable but undeniable facts, had a very full month working for the CIS. He took a keen interest in Australia’s attitude and policy approach to issues ranging widely from incarceration and recidivism to the plight of Indigenous Australians.

In addition to appearances on Lateline and Q&A, Dr Daniels wrote numerous op eds and articles, and was widely covered in the media, including ABC TV’s Q&A and *Lateline*, and features in the *The Australian* and the *Australian Financial Review*.

He delivered a number of lectures in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and worked with our scholars discussing hard issues such as criminality, poverty, individual responsibility, entrenched disadvantage, family breakdown, changes needed to the medical system, the pathologisation of personality and eccentricities into psychiatric disorders, and systemic welfare.



Dr Tony Daniels

Dr Daniels also addressed a sold-out crowd of over 300 guests at the Sydney Opera House to examine ***Is Society Broken?***

He delivered thought-provoking addresses in Brisbane and Melbourne at ***The Doctor Will See You Now*** lectures, and at a CIS event in tandem with Senior Research Fellow Dr Jeremy Sammut on ***Countering the Counter-Culture***.

Dr Daniels also took part in a number of private dinners and a roundtable discussion on the psychology of recidivism and whether it is actually possible to improve rates of re-offence.



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1. Australian Children's Laureate Jackie French at the FIVE from FIVE literacy program launch.
2. John Bonython Lecturer for 2016: Ayaan Hirsi Ali
3. Indigenous academic and activist Noel Pearson discusses the importance of explicit teaching methods
4. ACCC Chairman Rod Simms
5. American political & elections analyst Henry Olsen with CIS Executive Director Greg Lindsay
6. Indigenous entrepreneur Josephine Cashman tells it like it is at a National Press Club address
7. NSW Minister for Finance, the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP
8. Passionate education champion and CIS scholar Dr Jennifer Buckingham
9. Economic historian Niall Ferguson listens intently at a CIS staff lunch
10. Outgoing RBA Governor Glenn Stevens headlines a CIS Leadership Lunch
11. Qantas CEO Alan Joyce speaks on technology and globalisation
12. The Hon Paul Fletcher MP talks about the right way to privatise infrastructure
13. Former NSW premier Kristina Keneally addresses young professionals at CIS ThinkDrinks
14. CIS economist Michael Potter makes the case against tax increases

# Event Highlights

***In addition to the exciting special events held for our 40th anniversary, the CIS had another full year of activities, lectures, roundtables and business lunches.***

Key highlights included the **FIVE from FIVE literacy program launch** at NSW Parliament House featuring CIS education expert Dr Jennifer Buckingham with the NSW Minister for Education the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, Senator Bridget McKenzie, educational psychologist Kerri Hemenstall, Australian Children's Laureate Jackie French, and CEO of the Stronger Smarter Institute Darren Godwell

Former Human Rights Commissioner and now Liberal Member for Goldstein Tim Wilson delivered the annual **Acton Lecture** on *Rediscovering Humility: Religious Freedom in a 21st Century Pluralist Society* and much loved women's rights activist and author of *Infidel* Ayaan Hirsi Ali gave the annual **John Bonython Lecture** in Melbourne. Drawing a large crowd, she spoke passionately about **Liberal Democracies in an Era of Mass Migration**, stating that "The challenge of jihad and mass migration to liberal democracies, in my view, really is the challenge of our time."

Ayaan also spoke at a roundtable convened by CIS Religion and Civil Society Program Research Fellow Rev Peter Kurti to debate strategies for winning the battle of ideas to combat jihadism and home-grown terrorism. CIS Indigenous Program Research Fellow Sara Hudson brought together a number of high-profile business leaders for a roundtable to discuss Indigenous business development. Assisted by CIS Policy Analyst Trisha Jha, Sara also convened a roundtable to discuss the importance of direct instruction in boosting Indigenous education levels. Further roundtables on taxation were convened by CIS economist Michael Potter.

Our **Leadership Lunch series** continued its popular run with a selection of influential political and business leaders speaking on crucial issues ranging from infrastructure and privatisation to globalisation and economic reform. Speakers included former Reserve Bank of Australia Governor Glenn Stevens, National Australia Bank Chairman Dr Ken Henry AC, Secretary of the Treasury John Fraser, Commonwealth Bank head Ian Narev, Qantas CEO Alan Joyce, and the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, New South Wales Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

We were very proud to receive a strong public and media response from our inaugural **Helen Hughes Talk for Emerging Thinkers: *Homeland Truths***, delivered by Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, who spoke of the silent epidemic of violence perpetrated against women and children in Indigenous communities under the guise of culture and shared her own harrowing experiences. Professor Helen Hughes was one of Australia's greatest intellectuals and an educator and supporter of young people from around the world. This annual lecture will allow prominent emerging thinkers to discuss pertinent social or economic issues of critical importance under a national spotlight.

This opened the door to wider community and media discussions including a **National Press Club** panel address on *Ending the Violence in Indigenous Communities*, specially convened by the CIS and featuring Jacinta with esteemed Indigenous academic Professor Marcia Langton AM and Indigenous entrepreneur Josephine Cashman. The event received nationwide coverage and has helped put this problematic issue on Australia's agenda.

**A full event listing appears on pages 20–21, and details of some of 2017's activities may be found on [cis.org.au](http://cis.org.au) and our Youtube channel.**

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1. Serious thinkers: L to R – the Hon Christian Porter MP, CIS Senior Fellow Robert Carling, Secretary of Treasury John Fraser, journalist Terry McCrann, NZ Deputy PM and Finance Minister the Hon Bill English, Wesfarmers Chairman Michael Chaney AO, and CIS Executive Director Greg Lindsay AO.
2. Secretary for Immigration Michael Pezzullo with WSJ Europe Editor Joseph Sternberg
3. Former Al Jazeera journalist Peter Greste and his partner, BCA Communications Director Christine Jackman, flanking the much-loved political satirist PJ O'Rourke
4. McGregor Fellow recipients Bill Leak and Anthony Dillon with retired police officer Colin Dillon AM



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# Consilium

***Consilium is the Centre's flagship event; an exclusive, invitation-only conference for leading thinkers, influencers and decision-makers from Australia and overseas gathered to address critical domestic and global issues.***

It was fitting that in the CIS's 40th year, many Consilium delegates described the conference as the best yet. A heavy-hitting line-up of speakers ensured the debate was unexpected at times, challenging at others, and always provoking.

Indigenous entrepreneurs Josephine Cashman and Terri Janke, Maori lawyer Matanuku Mahuika, former Human Rights Commissioner Tim Wilson and CIS Research Fellow Sara Hudson covered the need for radical change in boosting the levels of Indigenous economic development.

The generational wars were discussed with particular reference to our ageing population, and baby boomers were described as "a potent political force and a demographic tornado".

Weighing in on the subject were CIS Research Manager Simon Cowan, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Small Business the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Labor Member for Fenner the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, and Chairman of Acorn Capital Professor Robert Officer AM.

A discussion on the perpetual tug of war between bigger government and lower taxes had a stellar speaker's panel including New Zealand's Deputy PM and Finance Minister the Hon Bill English MP, Secretary to the Treasury John Fraser, Minister for Social Services the Hon Christian Porter MP, CIS Senior Fellow Robert Carling, and economics journalist Terry McCrann.

Wickedly funny American political satirist PJ O'Rourke joined *Australian Financial Review* columnist Jennifer Hewett, ABC political editor Chirs Uhlmann and the *Wall Street Journal* Europe's Joe Sternberg to thrash out the decline of Western democratic politics.

When we called the session *Has Personality 'Trumped' Policy in Politics?* back in March we had little idea how far the tide of populism would turn. Comparisons with the sorry state of Australian politics were inevitably made and a general consensus that ever-rising voter disenchantment is a clarion call for the elite to listen to the "forgotten people."

And on that note, we addressed the ongoing concern that inequality has sky-rocketed over the past few decades. CIS Research Fellow Michael Potter talked with Managing Director (Federal) of Barton Deakin David Alexander, New Zealand Initiative Senior Fellow Dr Bryce Wilkinson, and HILDA Survey Deputy Director (Research) at the Melbourne Institute Professor Roger Wilkins about whether there is a causative relationship between perceived inequality and growth, and whether inequality and poverty are being confused.

Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection Michael Pezzullo delved into the challenges of mass migration with counterinsurgency strategist Dr David Kilcullen, Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative Dr Oliver Hartwich, and WSJ Europe's editor Joe Sternberg, mentioned above. Discussion focused on the intertwined issues of humanitarian relief, culture, geopolitics, economics, jihadism and what women's rights activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali called "the challenge of our time."

Dr David Kilcullen elaborated further on Islamic terrorism in an impromptu after-dinner session with riveted delegates perched on the stairs and crammed in to take part in a very sobering conversation, and former Al Jazeera journalist Peter Greste shared the astounding story of his unlawful Egyptian detainment and restrictions on press freedoms.

# Events at a Glance



**Leadership Lunch**  
**Closing the Gap: Technology and Innovation in Business and the Economy**  
 Ian Narev

**Helen Hughes Lecture for Emerging Thinkers**  
**Homeland Truths: The Unspoken Epidemic of Violence in Indigenous Communities**  
 Jacinta Price

**Public Lecture**  
**The Case Against Tax Increases in Australia**  
 Michael Potter and Andrew Bragg

**Conference**  
**Consilium**  
 Australia's Leading Public Policy Conference

**Private Dinner**  
**PJ O'Rourke Dinner**  
 PJ O'Rourke

**Private Lunch**  
**The Turn Against Democracy: Why the Intellectuals Hate the Masses**  
 Brendan O'Neill

**Leadership Lunch**  
**Navigating Beyond Volatility: Future Directions for Australian and Global Aviation**  
 Alan Joyce

**Leadership Lunch**  
**Think Globally, Reform Locally: Why State Governments Need to Disrupt Their Back Office**  
 The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP

**Public Lecture**  
**Direct and Explicit Teaching Methods (Brisbane)**  
 Noel Pearson, Dr Jennifer Buckingham, Glenn White, Kiriana White and Michael Roberts, Richard Smith

**Public Lecture**  
**Direct and Explicit Teaching Methods (Sydney)**  
 Noel Pearson, Dr Jennifer Buckingham, Glenn White, Kiriana White and Paul McDermott

**Leadership Lunch**  
**Economics Outlook**  
 Secretary to Treasury John Fraser

**Members' Event**  
**CIS Member Christmas Party**  
 The Hon. John Howard and Bill Leak

DECEMBER

**Roundtable**  
**FivefromFive: Phonics Screening Check (Melbourne)**  
 Dr Jennifer Buckingham

**Roundtable**  
**FivefromFive: Phonics Screening Check (Sydney)**  
 Dr Jennifer Buckingham

**Public Lecture**  
**National Press Club Address**  
 PJ O'Rourke

**Lighthouse Lecture**  
**Have We All Gone Nuts?! (Melbourne)**  
 PJ O'Rourke

**Lighthouse Lecture**  
**The Dangerous State of the Nation (Sydney)**  
 PJ O'Rourke

**Public Lecture**  
**Trump, Brexit and the Forgotten People**  
 Henry Olsen

**Leadership Lunch**  
**A Ten Year Retrospective**  
 Glenn Stevens AC

**Leadership Lunch**  
**What Now for Economic Reform?**  
 Dr Ken Henry AC

**Public Lecture**  
**Getting Privatisation Right**  
 Rod Sims

**Roundtable**  
**Early Childhood and Indigenous Affairs**  
 Trisha Jha and Sara Hudson

**Lighthouse Lecture**  
**Contemporary Duck & Cover? Terror Challenges in the 21st Century**  
 Dr David Kilcullen

**Acton Lecture**  
**Rediscovering Humility: Religious Freedom in a 21st Century Pluralist Society**  
 The Hon Tim Wilson MP

**Public Lecture**  
**Politically Feasible Health Reform: Whatever Will it Take?**  
 Dr Jeremy Sammut, Dr Peter Seaton, Gerald Thomas and Terry Barnes

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**  
PREMIUM

**TPP threatens nobody's sovereignty**

Anti-free trade campaigners want to make investor state disputes into the new trade battleground. Except that it's a non-**ISSUE**.

by Greg Lindsay and Patrick Carvahlo

A great challenge to Olympic packaging legislation has been devised.

**THE AGE** Comment

News AFL Business Politics World **Comment** Property Entertainment

**Children's interests overboard in child protection debate**

Jeremy Sammut

The Australian Medical Association has been widely applauded for

**NEWS** Just In US Election Australia World Business Sport Arts Analysis & Opinion

**Negative gearing helps low-income people most, but that's besides the point**

OPINION  
The Drum, By Michael Potter  
Updated 29 Apr 2016, 11:27am

*The truth is the relative benefits of negative gearing are greatest at low income levels. Even so, the debate should really be on the impact these concessions have on the wider economy, not on who wins or loses more, writes Michael Potter.*

**THE AUSTRALIAN**

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS REVIEW NATIONAL AFFAIRS SPORT LIFE TECH ARTS TRAVEL

INQUIRER

**Five from Five: We can end the reading wars**

JENNIFER BUCKINGHAM  
The Australian | 12:00AM March 5, 2016

Facebook Twitter Messenger Email Save

**The Daily Telegraph**

NEWS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LIFESTYLE VIDEO CLASSIFIED

**RENDEZVIEW** THE MEETING PLACE FOR NEWS-M

Sara Hudson  
April 13, 2016 3:00pm

**Reduce Indigenous incarceration rates? Not so fast**

**Can we really deradicalise Muslim extremists?**

Peter Kurti

**THE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS REVIEW**

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS REVIEW NATIONAL AFFAIRS SPORT LIFE TECH

**Discussion of gearing turns negative**

MICHAEL POTTER  
Business Spectator | 2:13AM February 27, 2016

Facebook Twitter Messenger Email Save

**QandA**

#QandA

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**  
PREMIUM

**Teaching phonics to kids is cheap but has a big...**

As the federal government looks for cost effective education reforms, teaching reading using phonics is an obvious place to start.

by Jennifer Buckingham  
In Tuesday's federal budget, the government will be under intense pressure to markedly increase school funding while restraining growth in spending across the

8 OCTOBER 2016 | A\$10.95/NZ\$11.95 WWW.SPECTATOR.COM.AU | EST. 1828

**THE SPECTATOR AUSTRALIA**

**Take the children away. Please.**

More indigenous kids need to be in care, says Jeremy Sammut

**The Sydney Morning Herald**  
NEWS SITE OF THE YEAR

News Sport Business World Politics **Comment** Property Entertainment

**Indigenous incarceration rates are**

Sara Hudson  
11:00am

The government is wrong to delay responding to the Empowered Communities report, as its model could be the fresh thinking the

**THE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS REVIEW**

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS REVIEW NATIONAL AFFAIRS SPORT LIFE TECH ARTS

LEGAL AFFAIRS

**Minority fundamentalists threaten the very freedoms they oppose**

PETER KURTI  
The Australian | 12:00AM July 15, 2016

NEWS

Just In US Election Australia World Business Sport Arts Analysis & Opinion

**Child care choice: Will voters want a sugar hit or a more lasting solution?**

OPINION  
The Drum, By Thane Jha  
Updated 8 Jun 2016, 2:07pm

Labour will win political points for the earlier start date for its extra funding for child care, but unless the Government's plan, it amounts to a sugar hit for family budgets without the benefits of structural change or a proper solution to the problem of inadequate care

**The Sydney Morning Herald** Comment

News Sport Business World Politics **Comment** Property Entertainment

**Coalition has fled from the fiscal challenge**

Simon Cowan

**HOCKEY'S**

**THE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS REVIEW**

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS REVIEW NATIONAL AFFAIRS SPORT LIFE TECH ARTS

BUSINESS SPECTATOR

**A crucial ingredient for tax reform**

ROBERT CARLING  
Business Spectator | 9:45PM December 9, 2015

Facebook Twitter Messenger Email Save

On Tuesday afternoon the Reserve Bank of Australia took a bold and decisive step to cut already record low interest rates still further, attempting to combat Australia's economic problems. Unfortunately, that was the only bold and decisive step taken that day

# 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 researchers are seen as experts in their fields, frequently being called upon for commentary on the issues of the day.*

In 2016, CIS published 196 op-eds, was cited in 3407 news stories, and researchers appeared in 580 radio broadcasts and on 120 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 2016 focused on a total of 30 publications, including 14 Research Reports (of which 4 were TARGET30 papers), 10 Occasional Papers, and 6 submissions to government.

3,407  
NEWS STORIES

196  
OP-EDS

580  
RADIO  
BROADCASTS

120  
TV SHOWS

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. 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.

A screenshot of a news article from the Financial Review. The article title is "Retirees win big in the generation games". The image shows a group of people sitting on a beach in deck chairs, looking out at the ocean. The article is by Peter Braig and discusses pension spending and the ageing population.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**  
PREMIUM

NEWS - BUSINESS - MARKETS - STREET TALK - REAL ESTATE - OPINION - TECHNOLOGY - PERSONAL

## Retirees win big in the generation games

Each generation of retirees has demanded more from the ones which come after them. Peter Braig

by Simon Cowan  
Pension spending is rapidly becoming unsustainable. Not only because of the pressure the ageing population places on our tax system but because the bargain between the generations is shifting too much towards retirees.

# Publications

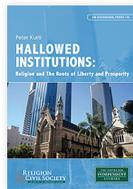
*Our high-quality research publications form a crucial part of the foundation of the CIS's public profile and endeavours to promulgate policy proposals. During 2016, CIS published 14 Research Reports, 10 Occasional Papers, six Submissions, and four editions of the CIS quarterly journal, Policy, focusing on new ideas, debates and opinion.*



## CIS Occasional Papers 2016

**Hallowed Institutions: Religion and The Roots of Liberty and Prosperity**

Peter Kurti



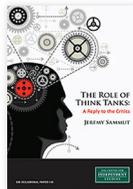
**The Battle of Ideas: can the beliefs that feed terrorism be changed?**

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Denis Dragovic, Tanveer Ahmed, Peter Kurti



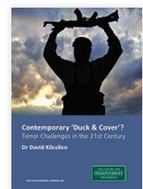
**The Role of Think Tanks: A Reply to the Critics**

Jeremy Sammut



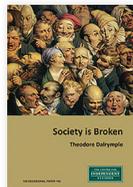
**Contemporary Duck and Cover: Terror Challenges in the 21st Century**

Dr David Kilcullen



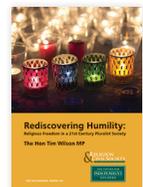
**Society is Broken**

Theodore Dalrymple



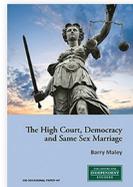
**Acton Lecture. Rediscovering Humility: Religious Freedom in a 21st Century Pluralist Society**

Tim Wilson



**The High Court, Democracy and Same Sex Marriage**

Barry Maley



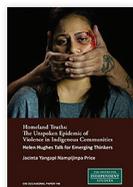
**Ending the Violence in Indigenous Communities**

Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Marcia Langton AM, Josephine Cashman



**Homeland Truths: The Unspoken Epidemic of Violence in Indigenous Communities**

Jacinta Price



**Politically Feasible Health Reform: Whatever Will It Take?**

Jeremy Sammut, Peta Seaton, Gerald Thomas, Terry Barnes



# CIS Research Reports 2016

## One School Does Not Fit All

Jennifer Buckingham, Trisha Jha

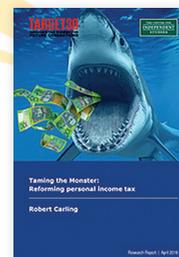
This report challenges the idea that there is such a thing as a 'typical' government, Catholic or independent school by presenting a statistical profile of Australian schools and showcasing profiles of schools across three states and all three sectors. It also canvasses policy options for improving school choice and school diversity. All three school sectors play essential roles in providing quality education to Australian students. Government policy into the future should protect this legacy.



## Taming the Monster: Reforming Personal Income Tax

Robert Carling

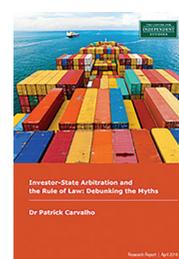
Without any change in personal income tax rates or thresholds, the tax burden will increase substantially and many more taxpayers will face high marginal rates over the next few years.



## Investor-State Arbitration and the Rule of Law: Debunking the Myths

Patrick Carvalho

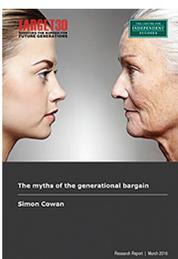
Debunks the widespread and unfounded myths about investor-state arbitration, showcasing it as a beacon for the rule of law in international affairs.



## The Myths of the Generational Bargain

Simon Cowan

There has been a marked growth in pension cost and cohort. Pension increases far outstrip wage growth. This imbalance is projected to get worse in the future, with pension costs increasing against wages by another 50%. This imbalance is projected to get worse in the future, with pension costs increasing against wages by another 50% despite the maturation of the superannuation system. To restore balance, the government needs to reform several aspects of the retirement income system.



## MEDI-VALUE: Health Insurance and Service Innovation in Australia - Implications for the Future of Medicare

Jeremy Sammut

For healthcare innovation to flourish there needs to be a real market for health services in Australia. For innovation at delivery level to occur, system-wide innovation is required of the way Australian healthcare is insured and financed.



## Read About It: Scientific evidence for effective teaching of reading

Kerry Hempenstall, Jennifer Buckingham

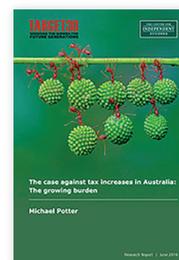
Outlines the powerful research evidence on learning to read from the 1960s to 2015 and explains how having effective, evidence-based reading instruction in every classroom, every day can substantially improve literacy levels among Australian children.



## The case against tax increases in Australia: The growing burden

Michael Potter

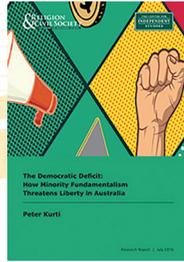
The tax burden imposed by the federal government alone, and by all Australian governments, is above its historical levels; and forecast to go well above these averages.



## The Democratic Deficit: How Minority Fundamentalism Threatens Liberty in Australia.

**Peter Kurti**

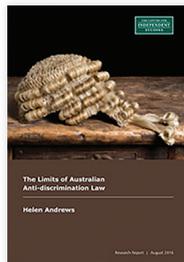
We are faced with a new kind of fundamentalism – call it ‘minority fundamentalism.’ It has all the features of religious fundamentalism, such as ideological fanaticism, intolerance of dissent, and a Manichaeian certainty about truth and falsehood. The goal of the minority fundamentalists is to eradicate all forms of discrimination in the name of liberating those deemed to be oppressed.



## The Limits of Australian Anti-discrimination Law

**Helen Andrews**

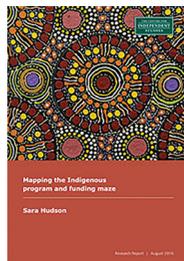
Anti-discrimination law has existed in Australia for just 50 years, and has become entrenched and almost unquestionable. An examination of its record, however, shows that it has not been an effective tool to achieve the goals for which it was designed and has become more of an expression of identity politics than a means for truly disadvantaged groups to obtain needed remedies.



## Mapping the Indigenous Program and Funding Maze

**Sara Hudson**

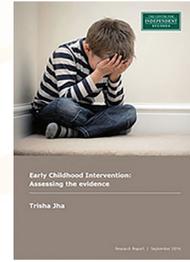
Maps the number of government and non-government Indigenous programs and potential level of duplication among different program providers (federal, state/territory and non-government). It also estimates how much funding is allocated for Indigenous-specific programs, across the non-government sector as well as by federal and state/territory governments.



## Early Childhood Intervention: Assessing the evidence

**Trisha Jha**

A review of Australian programs and policies that aim to positively influence children over the life course finds that though the evidence underpinning a theoretical window of opportunity in which to do this is sound, reality has not lived up to the promise.



## Fix it or Fail: Why we must cut company tax now

**Michael Potter**

Australia needs to cut company tax to 25% to boost business investment, which is currently at recessionary levels. This is being hampered by our uncompetitive company tax, which is highly inefficient and much more burdensome than in other developed countries.



## MEDI-VATION: 'Health Innovation Communities' for Medicare Payment and Service Reform

**Jeremy Sammut, Gerald Thomas, Petra Seaton**

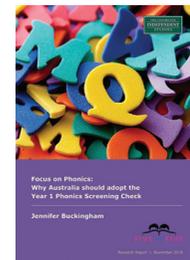
Health Innovation Communities (HICs) would essentially constitute an Australian ‘Silicon Valley’ for health – hubs for research and development within which the proverbial ‘1000 flowers’ will bloom as a plurality of different providers create novel health products and solutions.



## Focus on Phonics: Why Australia should adopt the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

**Jennifer Buckingham**

Research outlines how a simple, five-minute Phonics Screening Check could identify at an early stage all of Australia’s school children who are at serious risk of struggling with reading skills.



# External Engagement

***In the past year, CIS has continued to robustly engage with the world beyond our doors with the aim of strengthening our voice in public policy.***

This year, we have met with more than 50 ministers, MPs, senators and senior bureaucrats, presenting our research and making the case for evidence-based policy development. Ours is a long-term approach, but it has been gratifying to see some of our recommendations implemented, particularly the introduction of the much-needed phonics check test for Year 1 students by the federal government, which Dr Jennifer Buckingham has

been advocating for several years. Thanks in part to our newly central office location, we have also had the pleasure of hosting brainstorming sessions with several state and federal ministers. These informal discussions proved to be enormously thought-provoking to our staff and visitors alike. We look forward to hosting many more in years to come.

We also continue to connect, collaborate and advocate with many of Australia's leading organisations, building important relationships across the policy spectrum. From Cape York Partnerships to the Association of Independent Schools and the NSW Business Chamber, these relationships allow our researchers to gain new perspectives and share their expertise.

# 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.***

## **CIS Building Fund**

2016 has been a momentous year for CIS, and we have been touched by the generosity our supporters have shown in our 40th year. So far this year we have raised over \$1.8 million for the CIS Building Fund towards our

target of \$2.5 million. This has been an amazing start to building the future of the CIS at our new premises in the heart of Sydney. Our aim is to be debt free as soon as possible, and we continue to welcome contributions to the CIS Building Fund.

## **Donations and Membership**

Support for our general funding and program funding, such as the Five from Five education project and the CIS Indigenous Policy Research program, was also generous. We are particularly grateful to our donors and members who not only gave to the Building Fund but also showed their continued support by renewing memberships, giving towards the End of Financial Year Appeal and assisting us with our special program funding. We could not do our important work without you — so thank you!

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)**.

# Research Staff

## Helen Andrews

### Policy Analyst, Social Foundations Program

Helen's previous research has focused on government regulation of the NFP sector, and preventative health. In 2016 she published a report titled *The Limits of Australian Anti-discrimination Law*.



## Dr Patrick Carvalho

### Research Fellow, Economics Program

In 2016, Patrick published *Investor-State Arbitration and the Rule of Law: Debunking the Myths*, focused on exploding the scaremongering around this issue in free trade agreements.



## Dr Jennifer Buckingham

### Senior Research Fellow and Director of FIVE From FIVE literacy campaign

Jennifer's main area of work is school education, particularly literacy. This year her papers *One School Does Not Fit All* (with Trisha Jha), *Read About It: Scientific Evidence for Effective Teaching of Reading*, and *Focus on Phonics: Why Australia Should Adopt the Year 1 Phonics Check* received wide attention and support. The FIVE from FIVE campaign is growing, and Jennifer is frequently consulted on literacy policy at the national level and is a board member of AITSL.



## Simon Cowan

### Research Manager and TARGET30 Program Director

Simon is the head of the research team and co-ordinates the TARGET30 government spending program. Simon's recent research has focused on the retirement system. Simon has done nearly 80 TV appearances in 2016, including ABC programs such as *The Drum* and *7.30*, Channel 9's *A Current Affair*, Channel 7 and Channel 10 news and several weekly appearances on Sky News programs.



## Robert Carling

### Senior Fellow, Economics Program

Robert's expertise is in fiscal policy, taxation and federalism. This year he published the research report *Taming the Monster: Reforming Personal Income Tax*. and made presentations to several conference and other forums on taxation, federalism and government debt, including the Tax Institute's annual conference on state taxation.



## Sara Hudson

### Research Fellow and Indigenous Research Program Manager

Sara has published widely on Indigenous policy for the CIS. Her groundbreaking 2016 research report, *Mapping the Indigenous program and funding maze*, received nationwide coverage when it was released in August.



## 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 2016 their co-authored report *One School Does Not Fit All* was published, followed by Trisha's report *Early Childhood Intervention: Assessing the evidence*. 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 to maintain freedom for expression of religious values. This year he published *Hallowed Institutions: Religion and The Roots of Liberty and Prosperity*, *The Democratic Deficit: How Minority Fundamentalism Threatens Liberty in Australia* and (co-authored) *The Battle of Ideas: can the beliefs that feed terrorism be changed?*



## Barry Maley

### Senior Fellow

Barry continues to be a significant contributor to the CIS. In 2016 Barry wrote *The High Court, Democracy and Same Sex Marriage*, exploring the overturning of the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961.



## Michael Potter

### Research Fellow, Economics Program

Michael authored the papers *The case against tax Increases in Australia: the growing burden* and *Fix it or Fail: Why we must cut company tax now*. In 2016, he wrote numerous articles published on these tax issues as well as bracket creep and the GST. He also presented at several conferences on taxation.



## Dr Jeremy Sammut

### Senior Research Fellow, Healthcare Innovation Program

Jeremy's expertise is in health and child protection. His groundbreaking work continued in 2016 with *MEDI-VALUE: Health Insurance and Service Innovation in Australia - Implications for the Future of Medicare*, *MEDI-VATION: Health Innovation Communities' for Medicare Payment and Service Reform*, and *The Role of Think Tanks: A Reply to the Critics*.



## Professor Peter Saunders

### Senior Fellow

After many years as the Social Foundations Program Director, Peter returned to the UK. He has maintained his relationship with the CIS, reviewing reports and participating in policy discussion.



## Professor Steven Schwartz

### Senior Fellow

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



## Rebecca Weisser

### Research Associate

Rebecca has recently joined CIS. Her research interests include media, superannuation, productivity, foreign policy and economic development.



# Staff

**Greg Lindsay AO**

Executive Director and Founder



**Ryan Acosta**

Design and Production Manager



**Meegan Cornforth**

Curator of Major Events



**Kerri Evans**

Office Administration



**Anastasia Glushko**

External Relations Manager



**Fleur Griffiths**

Development Manager



**Jenny Lindsay**

General Manager,  
Student Program Coordinator



**Cathleen Ly**

Accounts Manager



**Julie Mavlian**

FIVE From FIVE Literacy  
Project Assistant



**Jane Moon**

Events Co-ordinator



**Bronwyn Nolan**

Membership Manager



**Matthew O'Connell**

Multimedia Coordinator



**Karla Pincott**

Communications Director



**Phoebe Steyn**

Office Administration



**Yonca Yilmaz**

Executive Assistant and  
Events Assistant



# Board of Directors



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AO (Executive  
Director)



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AM



**Geoff Ricketts**



**Peter Mason AM**  
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**Michael Darling**



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D.White FAICD**



**Dr Peter Dodd**



**Nicholas Moore**



**Steven Wilson**  
AM



**Sir Rod  
Eddington AO**



**James Philips**

# Accounts

## The Centre For Independent Studies Ltd

Income & Expenditure Statement

Ending Financial Years 30/06/2016 and 30/06/2015

INCOME	To June 2016 AUDITED (\$)	To June 2015 AUDITED (\$)
General Donations	2,374,557.00	2,166,787.00
Building Fund Donations	1,397,444.00	0.00
Book Sales and Subscriptions	221,888.00	191,092.00
Consilium/Seminar/Lecture Income	524,671.00	556,377.00
Investment & Sundry Income (includes Capital Fund Income)	88,954.00	128,719.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,607,514.00</b>	<b>3,042,975.00</b>

EXPENSES	To June 2016 AUDITED (\$)	To June 2015 AUDITED (\$)
Research, Functions, Publishing	750,630.53	478,113.63
Fundraising & Development	46,911.29	49,497.99
Salaries (includes Research)	2,452,212.15	2,129,187.93
Administration & Rent	564,258.03	340,447.45
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,814,012.00</b>	<b>2,997,247.00</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>793,502.00</b>	<b>45,728.00</b>

Capital Fund as at 30 June 2015	<b>\$5,005,874.00</b>
Drawings	<b>-\$3,987,614.00</b>
Capital Fund as at 30 June 2016	<b>\$1,018,260.00</b>

# Academic Advisory Council

Professor Jeff Bennett  
Professor Geoffrey Brennan  
Professor Lauchlan Chipman  
Professor Kenneth Clements  
Professor Sinclair Davidson  
Professor David Emanuel  
Professor Ian Harper  
Professor Wolfgang Kasper  
Professor Chandran Kukathas  
Professor Tony Makin  
Professor R. R. Officer  
Professor Suri Ratnapala  
Professor Razeen Sally  
Professor Steven Schwartz  
Professor Judith Sloan  
Professor Peter Swan AO  
Professor Geoffrey de Q. Walker

## **Honorary Auditors**

Deloitte Australia

## **Honorary Solicitors**

James Beatty & Associates

# Distinguished Fellows

Professor Ray Ball  
John Calvert-Jones AM  
Michael Chaney AO  
Michael Darling  
David Darling (1925–2012)  
Dr Roderick Deane  
Alan Gibbs  
Ross Graham-Taylor (1919–2010)  
Professor R. M. Hartwell (1921–2009)  
Andrew Kaldor  
C. R. Bert Kelly CMG (1912–97)  
Neville Kennard (1937–2012)  
Barry Maley  
Alan McGregor AO (1936–2005)  
Hugh Morgan AC  
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE (1909–2012)  
Maurice Newman AC  
Professor Ross Parish (1929–2001)  
Ian Roach AO (1925–2003)  
Professor Peter Saunders  
Dr Ben Teh (1941–98)



THE CENTRE FOR  
**INDEPENDENT**  
STUDIES

**The Centre for Independent Studies**

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