2019

MELBOURNE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR’S CONFERENCE

Understanding and alleviating entrenched disadvantage

Wednesday 4 December

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

HELD IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES NETWORK SERIES, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY USA
UNDERSTANDING AND ALLEVIATING ENTRANCED DISADVANTAGE

Some communities in Victoria, and across Australia, experience deep and persistent social and economic disadvantage. Disadvantage is a multifaceted problem involving many factors that vary in intensity and complexity across these communities.

Disadvantage can be driven by geography if access is limited to employment and resources that provide opportunities for improving one’s quality of life. Communities will differ in economic and demographic characteristics that are often historic or have evolved by chance. But these differences can end up influencing the effectiveness of public programs (e.g., tax and transfer systems) and/or the use of inter-generational wealth transfers. In addition, the geography and economic climate in a region will affect planning and housing decisions.

The delivery of effective services to address disadvantage in communities can be challenging due to the varying needs of community members. It might be easier to address issues in areas that have a high concentration of members with similar social or economic characteristics (e.g., a high share of the population that are elderly) than in communities where there is greater diversity among the residents.

Geography alone, however, does not explain the challenges we face in addressing entrenched disadvantage. There are a range of other underlying factors such as the availability of education and training opportunities, early childhood support, family oriented programs, access to affordable housing, economic and social mobility, and/or cultural norms that can affect how we might address the challenges faced by families.

This second workshop as part of the Melbourne Institute Director’s Conference 2019 will focus on disentangling the issues driving social and economic inequality. We will explore how policy and service reform could be most effective, as well as how innovative individual and community actions and changes in service delivery can improve community outcomes.

Key to the conference is facilitating a rich dialogue among the speakers, panellists, and audience on how to address entrenched disadvantage using existing practice and by developing new service provider and community-initiated solutions.

PROGRAM

12.15–12.45 PM  REGISTRATION

12.45–1.45 PM  PANEL AND AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

Moderated by The Hon. Jenny Macklin, the speakers will be joined by Mr. Paul Briggs, Executive Chair Kaiela Institute, Ms. Jenny Hardy, General Manager NILS & Microfinance, Good Shepherd Australia and New Zealand, Professor Shelley Mallett, Director Research and Policy Centre, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Ms. Sally McCutchan, CEO and Executive Director Impact Investing and Dr. Ilan Wiesel, School of Geography, The University of Melbourne.

1.45–2.45 PM  CONFERENCE CLOSES

Afternoon tea served
SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

The Hon. Jenny Macklin  
Melbourne School of Government,  
The University of Melbourne

Jenny Macklin is a Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow at The University of Melbourne, in the School of Government. Prior to this, she served 23 years as the Federal Member for Jagajaga. Jenny was the longest serving woman in the House of Representatives, and was the first woman to become the Deputy Leader of a major Australian political party. She was the Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party from 2001-2006 and Senior Vice President of the Australian Labor Party. Jenny served as the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Disability Reform in the Rudd and Gillard Labor Governments. As Minister, she oversaw the Apology to the Stolen Generations and development of the Closing the Gap framework; the introduction of Australia’s first National Paid Parental Leave Scheme, delivered the largest increase to the Pension in the history of the payment, was responsible for the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and was an integral part of the establishment of the Royal Commission in to Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

She was a member of the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet in Government and Opposition for 20 years. Jenny was the Shadow Minister for Health, Aged Care, Social Security, Status of Women, Education and Training, Science and Research.

Ms. Lill Healy  
Department of Premier and Cabinet,  
Victorian State Government

Lill Healy was appointed Deputy Secretary, Service System Reform (SSR), in June 2019. SSR is leading collaboration with Departments across government supporting the design and delivery of reforms that address issues of complexity and disadvantage with a focus on place-based initiatives.

Lill was previously Deputy Secretary, Inclusion at the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR).

Professor Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach  
Institute for Policy Research,  
Northwestern University, USA

Professor Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach is an economist who studies policies aimed at improving the lives of children in poverty, including education, health, and income support policies. Her recent work has focused on tracing the impact of major public policies such as the Food Stamp Program and early childhood education on children’s long-term outcomes.

Her research has received financial support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Education, the Spencer Foundation and the Smith-Richardson Foundation, and has been published in the Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, the Review of Economics and Statistics, and the Journal of Human Resources, among other outlets. She has testified before both the Senate and House of Representatives on her research.

From 2015–17, Schanzenbach served as director of the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. She is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a research associate at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Professor Guyonne Kalb  
Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic & Social Research, The University of Melbourne

Professor Guyonne Kalb is the Labour Markets and Employment Program Coordinator at the Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne, and is co-chair of the cross-faculty Hallmark Initiative: Economic and Social Participation Research Initiative (ESPRIt).

Guyonne has been involved in several research projects providing evidence for policy makers, including a number of evaluation studies, such as the evaluation of the Paid Parental Leave scheme, and currently she is leading the Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW evaluation and is involved in the evaluation of the Try, Test and Learn Fund.

Guyonne’s research is mainly in the field of applied microeconomics and includes labour supply issues, in particular female labour supply; the interaction of labour supply, social security and taxation; labour supply and childcare; and the impact of childcare/parental activities on child development and health.

Before joining the Melbourne Institute in 2001, she worked at the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, and at The Department of Econometrics at Monash University.

Mr. Paul Briggs, OAM  
Kaiafa Institute

Paul Briggs is a Yorta Yorta man who has worked to build a sustainable, inclusive and engaged Indigenous community through the empowerment of family and youth.

He is the Executive Chair of the Kaiafa Institute, President of the Rumbalara Football Netball Club, former Chair of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, the previous long-serving Chair of the Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative, Inaugural Chair of the Victorian Community Controlled Health Organisation and the founding Chair of the First Nation Australian Credit Union and the First Nation Foundation.

Paul is currently the inaugural chair of the AFL Indigenous Advisory Committee, a member of the Aboriginal Treaty Working Group in Victoria and an advisor to the Uluru Education Project to progress constitutional reform to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and a First Nations Voice in Australia. He is the Goulburn Murray facilitator of the Algabonyah Community Cabinet and was also the first Aboriginal person in the 150 years of the University of Melbourne to be elected into the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee.

Since his early experiences in the Aboriginal Legal Service in the 1970’s Paul has worked tirelessly and with broad vision to build and maintain partnerships to collaborate in creating an inclusive future for Aboriginal people and people of the Goulburn Murray Region.
SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

Ms Jenny Hardy
Good Shepherd Australia and New Zealand

Jenny joined GSM in November 2018 as the General Manager of the No Interest Loan Scheme which delivers 30,000 loans to disadvantaged people nationally. Jenny has an extensive history of providing legal services to disadvantaged clients and managing complex service delivery models. Jenny has previously held positions of CEO of Legal Aid Queensland, head of Knowmore legal service, a national legal service established to provide legal services to victims of institutional child sexual abuse, Deputy Director of NT Legal Aid and was involved in establishing the Top End Women’s Legal Service, the Darwin Community Legal Service and was the inaugural chair of these 2 services for 3 years respectively. Much of Jenny’s previous work has included the provision of legal services to disadvantaged indigenous clients in the NT, Qld and nationally.

Professor Shelley Mallett
Brotherhood of St Laurence

Shelley Mallett is the Professorial Fellow in Social Policy in the School of Social and Political Sciences at The University of Melbourne and Director, Research and Policy at the Brotherhood of St Laurence. While her research interests are broad, including gender and health inequities, and youth transitions, she has particular expertise in homelessness and housing research, especially youth homelessness. She is a former member of the Victorian Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council and longstanding board member of the Council to Homeless Persons. She is the author of two books, including Moving Out and Moving On: Young People’s Pathways in and through Homelessness, and the recipient of several research awards, including the DM Myers award, and the VicHealth Public Health Research award.

Ms Sally McCutchen
Impact Investing

Sally McCutchen is the CEO and an Executive Director of Impact Investing Australia. She has extensive experience in finance, funds management and strategy, and has spent many years working in and understanding Asia Pacific markets. She has held senior roles with Accenture, Legg Mason Asset Management and SBC Warburg [now UBS]. Sally is a non-executive director of Indigenous Business Australia Asset Management, Oxfam Australia, Millennium Service Group (ASX: MIL) and two National Australia Bank securitisation companies. Sally is an appointed member of the Expert Panel for the Australian Government’s Social Impact Investing Taskforce. She is currently a member of: the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment’s (GSG) Working Group on impact investing wholesalers; the Australian Advisory Board on Impact Investing and the QBE Classification of Social Impact Committee. Sally is a Certified Practising Accountant and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Dr. Ilan Wiesel
School of Geography, The University of Melbourne

Dr Ilan Wiesel is a senior lecturer at the School of Geography, The University of Melbourne. His research is focused on matters of social and economic inequalities in cities. Specific areas of interest include: housing affordability; social inclusion and exclusion of people with intellectual disability; the geographies of elites; and, inequalities in the spatial distribution of public urban infrastructures. Ilan currently leads an ARC Discovery funded study titled “The Disability Inclusive City”, and has recently completed a DECRA fellowship on Australia’s elite neighbourhoods. His work has been published in key journals in the fields of urban and social geography, including Urban Studies, Housing Studies, Environment and Planning A, Urban Geography, Social and Cultural Geography, and Geoform. His book “Power, Glamour and Angst: Inside Australia’s Elite Neighbourhoods” was published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2016. Before joining The University of Melbourne in 2016, Ilan worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the City Futures Research Centre, University of New South Wales (2009-2016).

MELBOURNE INSTITUTE: APPLIED ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH

The Melbourne Institute is Australia’s pre-eminent economic and social policy research institution. We are renowned for our high-quality, independent and impartial applied research and our development of longitudinal survey tools.

Our work with government, business and community groups has been powering effective change for over 55 years, and through our research we play an important role in creating fundamental policy and practice. We strive to enhance understanding of issues affecting Australia and Australians today, and apply this knowledge to shape debate and drive evidence-based change.

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET VICTORIA

The Department of Premier and Cabinet’s (DPC) vision is to be a recognised and respected leader in whole of government policy and performance. DPC works for the people of Victoria by helping the government achieve its strategic objectives. It does this by supporting the Premier, Deputy Premier, the Special Minister of State, the ministers for Aboriginal Affairs, Equality, Industrial Relations, Multicultural Affairs, Veterans, Women and Youth, as well as the Cabinet. DPC leads the Victorian public service (VPS) by setting clear expectations, driving the government’s objectives, providing unifying intelligence within the Victorian Government and pursuing excellence in whole of government outcomes in delivery and reform.