



BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

# FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



**Tim Marney**  
Chief Economist, Nous  
Group; BCEC Advisory  
Board Chair

Much like 2020, the year 2021 will be remembered as one of the most challenging and disruptive in recent history. The economic and social shocks of the global pandemic continued to be felt around the world and drove the need for timely, trusted and independent research and analysis on the issues facing the Australian economy and society.

I am proud to say that the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre continued to be a key sought after source that addressed this need.

Over the course of the year, the Centre's researchers produced compelling insights into some of the most important economic, social and health issues of our time.

And our research went further, raising awareness of the factors that most affect community wellbeing, proposing actions for businesses, and putting forward recommendations for policy reform. This is why the Centre is increasingly seen as a key resource for policymakers, industry and advocacy groups.

The Centre's passionate commitment to engagement ensures that all research findings are shaped directly by people's experiences. Adding to this, its unique approach to dissemination

makes sure that evidence-based research findings connects to the broadest audience of industry, policy, and community stakeholders. This effective translation is what drives real change.

During the year, Bankwest confirmed their intention to continue to partner with Curtin University to provide financial support to the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre for a further three-year term. This third partnership agreement will mark 13 years of continuous funding of the Centre by Bankwest and Curtin University.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bankwest and Curtin University for their ongoing support and commitment to the Centre. The partnership has gone from strength to strength and will continue to do so for the next three years.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Centre's hard-working staff and leadership for their outstanding contributions to the Centre's activities.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow Advisory Board members for their valuable insights and ideas over the course of the year. Their thought leadership plays an essential role in supporting the Centre's strategic direction.

In particular I would like to thank Professor Nigel de Bussy, who retired from Curtin University after a long and distinguished career. Nigel has been a much-valued member of the Advisory Board, and we thank him for his sage advice and wish him all the best in his retirement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Marney', written in a cursive style.

**Tim Marney**

# BCEC ADVISORY BOARD



**Bronwyn Bell**  
Manager, Resource Development and Sustainability, The Chamber of Minerals & Energy of Western Australia



**Cath Hart**  
Executive Director, Housing Industry Association



**Chris Moran**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Curtin University



**Michael Court**  
Deputy Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury Western Australia



**Nigel de Bussy**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Business and Law, Curtin University



**Paul Vivian**  
Chief Customer Officer, Bankwest



**Rebecca Brown**  
Director General, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation



**Richard Bator**  
General Manager Business Banking, Bankwest



**Rob Cory**  
Head of External Communications and Sustainability, Bankwest



**Sue Ash AO**  
Special Advisor, Community Services, WA Department of Premier and Cabinet

# YEAR IN REVIEW



**Professor Alan Duncan**  
Director, Bankwest  
Curtin Economics  
Centre

The 2021 research program at the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre was naturally shaped to a significant extent by the ongoing challenges from the pandemic. We committed to learn more about what living with COVID-19 looked like for families and businesses across the country, and to explore the sorts of actions that policy, business and community organisations might take in response.

The Centre's research over the course of the year tackled some major questions: the impact of COVID-19 on WA's small businesses and their expectations for the future; the drivers, impacts and possible responses to escalating housing cost pressures; what works to improve gender diversity in our businesses; the challenges faced by WA's creative industries in the face of COVID-19; and the rising problem of loneliness and isolation in our society.

Among the Centre's most valued contributions are our regular insights into economic activity and employment trends. The BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update series tracked the Australian labour market as it sailed into uncharted waters. Unemployment rates across the country hit record but unorthodox lows over the year, driven by major skills shortages from closed borders and the restricted mobility of workers.

I am especially proud that our work in 2021 raised awareness of some important social issues that have been flying below the radar of public policy discourse. The Centre's *Stronger Together* report showed that loneliness has become more prevalent in Australia - something that resonated strongly with many peak agencies across the country - and our findings on the economic cost of loneliness make a compelling case to fund initiatives that (re)build connections in our society.

This is just one example of research being directed towards better design of policy and practice, and speaks to the Centre's core mission to conduct research that makes a genuine difference to people's lives.

We always seek feedback on the work we do as a Centre, and regularly check in with users of our research through social media channels, online surveys, and direct engagement with stakeholders from the policy, business and community sectors. This extends to you as a reader of this annual report, so please do get in touch. We welcome your views on our program, your insights on our findings, and your ideas for topics we might explore in the future.

And finally, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to Bankwest and Curtin University for their ongoing support of the Centre. The maturity of our partnership, and the shared commitment of both partners to the Centre's mission and values, have played a fundamental role in our success.

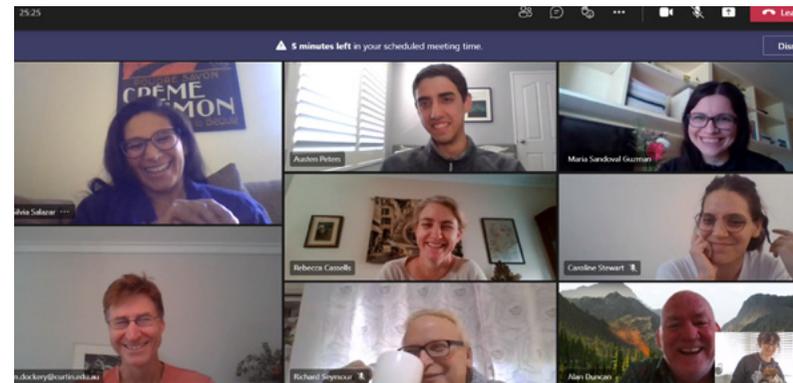
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Duncan', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Alan Duncan**



## OUR MISSION

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre's core mission is to deliver high quality, independent, accessible research that enhances our understanding of key economic and social issues that contribute to the wellbeing of Australian families, business, and communities.



# RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre (BCEC) has a core mission to undertake research that makes a genuine difference to people's lives. Any research we undertake is carefully considered for its relevance to current economic and societal issues at both state and federal level.

Our long-standing research program on Western Australia looked at the threats to the state's economic recovery posed by COVID-19. We sought to understand the economic impact of short-term measures such as snap lockdowns on WA's local businesses and economy through the *2021 BCEC Small Business Survey* and our *BCEC Quarterly Economic Commentaries*.

The Centre's *2021 Housing Affordability Survey* looked at the impact of COVID-19 on housing affordability, and the story that emerged was very much a '*tale of two tenures*'. Homeowners and those looking to buy were found to be more comfortable than they had been for some time, with purchases incentivised by government stimulus measures and low interest rates. However, many in the private rental market struggled to meet the rising costs of rented accommodation, with escalating rents fuelled by record low vacancy rates and restricted supply of affordable rentals.

The *Creativity at the Crossroads* report explored the positive contributions that the creative industries sector makes to WA's economy and society, and the opportunities and challenges presented by COVID-19 to creative entrepreneurs and workers in the state. The research demonstrated that investment in WA's creative industries would generate increased economic value for the state, and contribute to an economic diversification strategy through complementarities between arts and culture and other industry sectors.

A particularly significant piece of research for BCEC came in the form of our *Stronger Together* report which calculated the economic impact of loneliness in Australia at \$2.7 billion per year. The report identified sections of the community that are most at risk of loneliness, and recommended strategies and policies that governments can undertake to mitigate the cost of loneliness.

For this 2021 Annual Report, we showcase a selection of BCEC's research programs that had a major impact during the year.



BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

## BACK IN BUSINESS?

WA small businesses and the impact of COVID-19

Rebecca Cassells, Alan Duncan and Daniel Kiely

Focus on Western Australia Report Series, No.14  
February 2021



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## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN WA

A tale of two tenures

Adam Crowe, Alan Duncan, Amity James and Steven Rowley

Focus on Western Australia Report Series, No.15  
June 2021



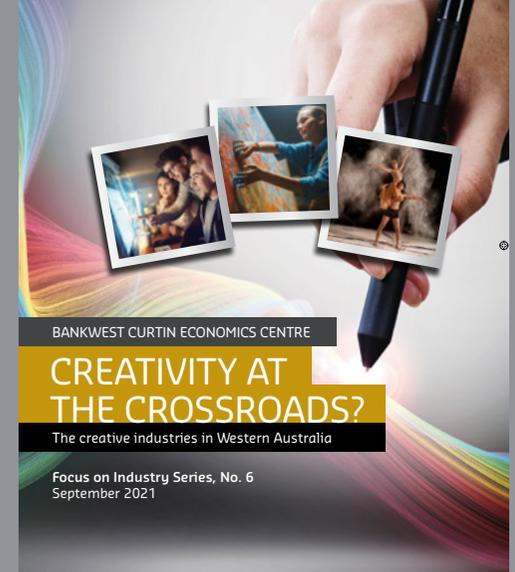
BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

## STRONGER TOGETHER

Loneliness and social connectedness in Australia

Alan Duncan, Daniel Kiely, Astghik Mavisakalyan, Austen Peters,  
Richard Seymour, Chris Twomey and Lili Loan Vu

Focus on the States Series, No. 8/21  
November 2021



BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

## CREATIVITY AT THE CROSSROADS?

The creative industries in Western Australia

Focus on Industry Series, No. 6  
September 2021

# EXTENDING THE LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME TAX OFFSET - BCEC POLICY BRIEFING NOTE

The BCEC Policy Briefing note on *Extending the Low and Middle Income Tax Offset beyond 2020-21* created significant and meaningful impact in 2021.

Ahead of the Federal Budget in May 2021, BCEC's Associate Professor Rebecca Cassells and Professor Alan Duncan released modelling that demonstrated the financial impact of withdrawing the Low and Middle Income Tax Offset (LMITO) in the 2021-22 financial year.

Their modelling highlighted that almost 3.4 million Australians would lose up to \$1,080 in the 2021-22 financial year through the withdrawal of the LMITO,

with another 7 million Australians having less take home pay after taxes. The modelling also showed that women would be disproportionately impacted by the removal of the LMITO.

BCEC's modelling helped shape a public conversation on the proposed withdrawal of the LMITO which led to an extension of the LMITO through to the end of the 2021-2022 financial year. Almost 10 million Australians on low and middle incomes benefited from the LMITO extension by retaining their current take home pay.

“ Almost 10 million Australians on low and middle incomes benefited from the LMITO extension by retaining their current take home pay. ”

## EXTENDING THE LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME TAX OFFSET BEYOND 2020-21

Rebecca Cassells and Alan Duncan

The Federal Budget 2020-21 introduced a set of amendments to the Personal Income Tax Plan announced in the previous 2019-20 budget, with the intention to stimulate the economy and reduce the burden of taxation felt by individuals.

Specifically, the additional measures in Federal Budget 2020-21 (Budget Paper No.1) included:

- Bringing forward Stage 2 of the Personal Income Tax Plan to 2020-21:
  - Raising the upper threshold of the 19% tax rate (and lower threshold of the 32.5% tax rate) from \$37,000 to \$45,000;
  - Raising the upper thresholds of the 32.5% tax rate (and lower threshold of the 37% tax rate) from \$90,000 to \$120,000;
  - Increasing the Low Income Tax Offset (LITO) from \$445 to \$700 coupled with changes to the LITO thresholds and withdrawal tapers;
  - Extending the \$1,080 Low and Medium Income Tax Offset (LMITO) to 2020-21, with its removal deferred to 2021-22.

Stage 3 of the Personal Income Tax Plan remains in place from 2024-25, comprising the removal of the 37% income tax rate; the reduction of the 32.5% tax rate to 30%; and an increase in the upper threshold of the new 30% rate (and lower threshold of the 45% rate) from \$180,000 to \$200,000.

This note assesses the combined impacts on net incomes of personal taxation and tax offset changes from 2021-22 through to 2024-25 financial years relative to 2020-21 as the reference year.

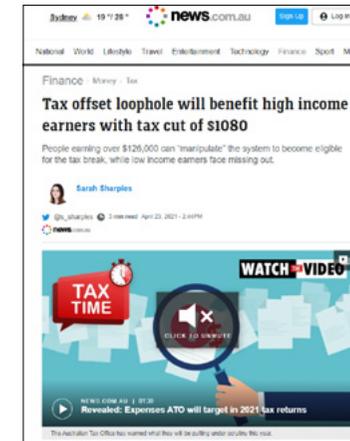
JobSeeker payments, other pensions and allowance entitlements, and family payments are excluded from the analysis, along with any projected real wage increases.

From these results, we can infer the impact on individuals' net incomes of an extension to the LMITO over the three years from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

This Briefing Note also compares the estimated impact of the LMITO removal on women and men.

### Distributional impacts

- The effects of tax measures on net annual incomes from 2019-20 through to 2024-25 (including changes to income tax rates and thresholds, the LITO and LMITO) are shown in **Table 1** for selected levels of taxable income.
- **Changes** in net annual incomes from the combination of measures listed above for selected taxable incomes are shown in **Table 2**, expressed relative to a base 2020-21 financial year.
- The withdrawal of the LMITO from 2021-22 onwards will lead to an **increase** of \$1,080 in net taxes paid for people with taxable income between \$48,000 and \$90,000 (**Table 2**). This constitutes nearly 3.4 million tax payers of which 50% are women.
- These losses would be **eliminated** if the LMITO were to be extended from 2021-22 through to 2023-24. This would cost **around \$7.2bn per year**.
- Those earning \$126,000 or more drew no financial benefit from the LMITO, and will be unaffected by its withdrawal in 2021-22.
- The financial benefits from Stage 3 of the Personal Income Tax Plan fall disproportionately on those with annual incomes above \$120,000, and particularly above \$180,000 (**Figure 1**).



# GENDER EQUITY INSIGHTS

The Gender Equity Insights research series in partnership with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency continued to drive significant impact and engagement throughout 2021.

This year we launched our sixth report in the series, *Gender Equity Insights: Making it a Priority*, which focused on the evidence-based actions that organisations can take to close the gender pay gap.

The Gender Equity Insights research series was also included in the Federal Women's Budget Statement 2021-22, recognising the importance of our longitudinal research with WGEA, in particular our "world-first study on gender diversity in company leadership" in 2020.

The research partnership was a finalist at the 2021 Engagement Australia Awards 2021, in recognition of both the enduring research partnership between BCEC and WGEA and the compelling evidence on gender pay gaps and other gender equity indicators in Australian workplaces provided through the BCEC|WGEA Gender Equity Insights report series.

In its sixth year in 2021, we are delighted to announce that the partnership will continue for another three-year term.

The new partnership allows Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre and WGEA to extend an important and valuable collaboration that has resulted in exceptional international engagement for the Centre, for WGEA and for partners Bankwest and Curtin University. Insights from the research under this partnership have demonstrably influenced policy and practice. The work that BCEC undertakes with WGEA reflects the passion that we have for research that supports gender equity and diversity.

“Companies that consistently undertake pay gap audits see a faster reduction in gender pay gaps within their organisations.”



# GENDER EQUITY INSIGHTS 2021

## MAKING IT A PRIORITY

BCEC | WGEA Gender Equity Series



# Budget 2021-22

## Women's Budget Statement 2021-22

By

Senator the Honourable Marise Payne  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister for Women

and

Senator the Honourable Anne Ruston  
Minister for Families and Social Services  
Minister for Women's Safety

and

Senator the Honourable Jane Hume  
Minister for Superannuation, Financial Services and  
the Digital Economy  
Minister for Women's Economic Security

11 May 2021

## Gender pay gap may close by the 2040s

On current trends, the WGEA total remuneration gender pay gap is likely to close in 26 years.

\* This projection assumes that current trends will continue and does not reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Data source  
BCEC | WGEA Gender Equity Insights 2021



## Regular audits close pay gaps faster

Organisations that consistently audited pay gaps closed their managerial pay gaps at a faster rate than other companies.

Pay gap audits	Managerial pay gaps
Organisations regularly auditing pay gaps (2015-20)	↓ 2.2 ppt
Organisations auditing pay gaps after 2017	↓ 0.5 ppt
Organisations that stopped auditing pay gaps from 2017	↑ 5.1 ppt



Data source  
BCEC | WGEA Gender Equity Insights 2021



# INDIGENOUS RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre continues to be a significant figure in economic and social research that drives better outcomes for Indigenous Australians. We believe in respectful research that has implications for how policy and practice can support the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

In 2021 the Centre was approached to conduct research for the Minderoo Foundation's Generation One program to develop an Indigenous Employment Index.

The goal of this collaboration between BCEC, GenOne and Murawin, an Indigenous-led research consultancy, is to establish a baseline for the state of Indigenous employment parity, identify what practices to achieve sustainable Indigenous employment, and enable organisations to report on progress.

This year we have also embarked on a project in collaboration with the WA Department of Communities, the Wungening Aboriginal Corporation and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) on Boorloo Bidee Mia, an innovative Perth-based pathway to housing that supports rough sleepers as part of the 10-year strategy to end homelessness.

A two-volume guide, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mobility in Central Australia: Survey Reference Guide Volumes 1 and 2*, was released in late November, sharing

an overview of the methodology behind a survey that investigated temporary mobility patterns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People living in 21 communities in central Australia.

Additional research in this space was published in December 2021 in the *Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, assessing housing quality, remoteness, and Indigenous children's outcomes in Australia.

“For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, living in remote communities provides connection to traditional country and to kinship networks which are intrinsic to their wellbeing and identity.”

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
MOBILITY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA:  
**SURVEY REFERENCE GUIDE**

*Volume 1: Baseline Survey*

AN OVERVIEW OF THE METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS FROM THE MOBILITY  
SURVEY, POPULATION MOBILITY AND LABOUR MARKETS PROJECT  
CRC FOR REMOTE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Alfred Michael Dockery & Maria Julieta Rottemberg



Project Partners



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
MOBILITY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA:  
**SURVEY REFERENCE GUIDE**

*Volume 2: Follow-up Surveys*

AN OVERVIEW OF THE METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS FROM THE MOBILITY  
SURVEY, POPULATION MOBILITY AND LABOUR MARKETS PROJECT  
CRC FOR REMOTE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Alfred Michael Dockery & Maria Julieta Rottemberg



Project Partners



# OUR IMPACT



**Publications**

53



**Publication  
downloads**

8,932

**Audience Reach**

17.1 million



**Speaking Engagements**

73



**Boards and Committees**

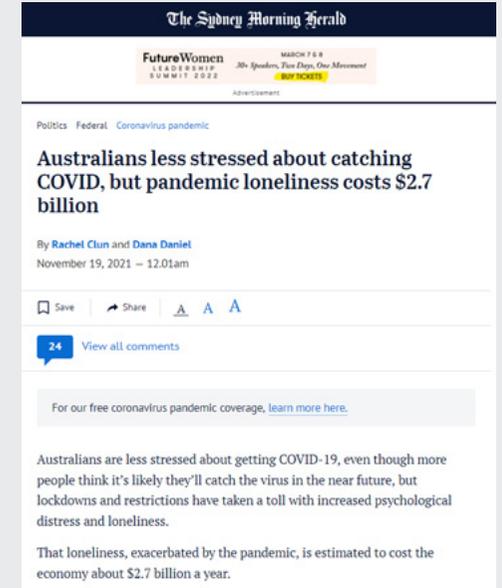


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“

Love your work. [BCEC's] WA focus provides valuable analysis to help shape WA's economic future. ”

*BCEC Annual Survey 2021 Respondent*



# ENGAGEMENT

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre had an impressive year of engagements with key stakeholders and audiences in an exceptionally busy year.

At our marquee report launch events we brought together 1,023 guests across five events in February, March, June, September, and November, connecting key stakeholders from the business, government, not-for-profit and academic communities.

Throughout the year we had 193 senior stakeholder engagements and 73 speaking and participation engagements, including 18 keynote addresses – the highest ever annual total for BCEC. We also committed to connecting more with Bankwest audiences, presenting at five bespoke

events in person and virtually, around subjects such as International Women's Day, the State Budget and Western Australia's Southwest economy.

We reached an estimated audience of 17 million Australians through 2,178 media mentions on television, radio, print and online and an estimated ASR of \$16.64 million.

BCEC team members presented to a wide array of audiences, providing expert economic and social commentary on a number of different subjects, including the Council on the Ageing WA Roundtable on the Great Digital Divide at Government House WA, the ASHEEP Annual General Meeting on agribusiness in the South West, and to the IPAA Seamless Service Delivery conference.



This high demand for BCEC speakers reflects the standing of our research and the Centre in community.

We also commenced an occasional webinar series with the WA Department of Communities, presenting the findings of the *Stronger Together: Loneliness and social connectedness in Australia* report to an audience of community sector employees and sector organisations, followed by a facilitated Q&A session, delivering relevant insights to an audience with capability to influence policy and actions to tackle the loneliness epidemic Australia is currently facing.



“ The students really appreciated the variety of perspectives that the speakers brought and, interestingly, it was an eye-opener for them in that they didn't realise the extent to which the gender pay gap continues to be an issue.

*Dr Marie Perry*  
*Principal, Methodist Ladies' College*

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# THE FOUNDATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Bankwest and Curtin University entered their ninth year of partnership this year to fund the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre (BCEC).

The Centre was established at a critical stage of economic development in Western Australia. After a period of record-high terms of trade and strong global demand for the state's natural resources, the signs were that Western Australia was entering a new phase. Western Australians, government, policymakers, and businesses needed access to the highest quality research and analysis on the big economic, financial, and social issues facing the state. With the forethought and generosity of Bankwest, and capitalising on Curtin University's reputation for excellence, the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre was formed to address this crucial gap.

The next decade saw considerable growth and opportunity in Western Australia, but challenges too in maintaining a strong growth trajectory, and addressing the pressing social issues facing Western Australians. The Centre too grew during the last decade to become the premier economic and social research organisation in Western Australia, and one of the top institutes

in the country for delivering quality assured and innovative research and data analytical services. From a small team in 2013, our team has grown to 11 full-time employees, and four research assistants and one editor.

From the beginning, Bankwest and Curtin University saw the potential and benefit of a Western Australian based economic and social research centre and have worked extremely closely with the Centre to develop and deliver the Centre's wide-ranging outputs, for the betterment of the Western Australian community and people. It is through their support that the Centre has been able to grow into an innovative and prolific economic Centre, attracting first rate researchers, and delivering high quality research and academic outputs.

These outputs have grown to include research addressing the Western Australian economy, participation and employment, business and industry, gender and diversity, indigenous wellbeing, income and wealth, tax and welfare, housing pathways and affordability, productivity and innovation, policy evaluation, education and skills, health, wellbeing and disadvantage, and population, ageing and retirement.

BCEC researchers also regularly contribute articles and opinion pieces to domestic and international news outlets, supporting our commitment to make research findings accessible to all. The Centre is committed to contributing to the evidence base used to inform good public policy. In doing so, our researchers also look to provide expert advice and information to government inquiries at both state and federal levels. These include submissions to the Productivity Commission, Senate Committees, House of Representatives and Joint Committee inquiries.

BCEC is committed to ensuring that the significant research investment by Bankwest and Curtin University will lead to research of benefit and value to the state and the wider community. As we look towards our 10-year anniversary in 2022, it is with immense gratitude that we thank Bankwest and Curtin University for their continued support and trust in the Centre. Here's to another 10 years of exceptional partnership!



# COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre researchers are at the top of their fields and are regularly commissioned to deliver bespoke research, addressing the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders. With extensive expertise in economic forecasting, quantitative modelling and economic and social policy evaluation, our researchers have a proven track record in the use of applied economic tools to deliver focussed research.

The Centre's research teams regularly provide research and evaluation services to public service departments, industry, and not-for-profit organisations. The Centre has a proven capability in writing major reports which are rigorous, yet easily accessible to public policy organisations, policy makers as well as to other key stakeholder groups. Below are some of the organisations we were proud to partner with this year on funded research.

#### **Generation One, Minderoo Foundation**

Generation One at the Minderoo Foundation is partnering with BCEC and the Murawin research consultancy to launch Australia's first Indigenous Employment Index (IEI). The aim of the project is to measure what works for businesses seeking to narrow the Indigenous employment gap within their organisations. The project will establish a baseline for the state of

Indigenous employment parity among Australia's large employers, and to identify what practices work to achieve sustainable Indigenous employment.

#### **Future Battery Industries CRC**

The Future Battery Industries CRC commissioned BCEC to undertake an economic impact analysis to examine the growth of battery industries in Australia. The Centre's modelling provides for scenario analysis and modelling which will enable the Future Battery Industries CRC to see the potential impact of their initiative on local, state and national economies and future economic development opportunities.

#### **City of Canning**

The City of Canning has identified the Canning Vale Industrial Area as a potential growth precinct for agrifood businesses that would be attracted to locate near WA's only wholesale fresh fruit and vegetable complex, which alone transacts half of WA's fresh produce. The Centre was engaged to evaluate the potential for a food value add industry in WA and Canning Vale, advising on policy to support the precinct, exploring its environmental sustainability and highlighting its relation to policy goals of state and federal governments.

### Australian Council of Trade Unions

The Centre undertook a family and domestic violence leave review for the Australian Council of Trade Unions. This project looked at the cost to employers of award-covered employees, including small and medium sized businesses, of providing, or not providing, 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave. The project also looked at the potential benefits of the provision of an entitlement of 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave.

### WA Department of Communities

In 2019 the Centre partnered with the WA Department of Communities to deliver the 2019 WA Women's Report Card, and design and develop the WA Women Data Insights Platform, which has been maintained by the Centre since it was successfully launched in September 2019. The WA Women Data Insights Platform provides interactive data for key headline indicators, selected based on their relevance and relative importance, within each domain.

### Workplace Gender Equality Agency

The Centre will enter a third partnership with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) to develop research insights on the into on the using WGEA's mandatory company reporting data.

The partnership has been in place for the past six years, producing the high impact BCEC|WGEA Gender Equity Insights report series and launch events.

The new partnership allows BCEC to extend an important and valuable collaboration that has resulted in exceptional national and international engagement. Insights from the research under this partnership have demonstrably influenced policy and practice, most notably those from the 2020 report that captured a causal link between gender diversity in leadership and improved company performance. Research findings have been used to underpin HESTA's 40:40 Vision initiative, where companies pledge to achieve gender balance in the executive leadership of 40 per cent identifying as women, 40 per cent identifying as men and 20 per cent any gender by 2030. Research findings from the partnership were also highlighted in the Federal Budget 2021-22 Women's Economic Statement.



Future Battery Industries CRC economic impact analysis.



Generation One, Minderoo Foundation Indigenous Employment Index.

# OUR SIGNATURE EVENTS

During 2021 we held five major events, bringing together 1,023 people, and connecting key stakeholders from the business, government, not-for-profit and academic communities.

Despite the tumultuous nature of COVID-19 in Western Australia in 2021, we successfully held four out of the five events in-person, continuing our mission of delivering high quality, accessible research.

Our marquee report launches create a valuable opportunity to bring research to life, lifting it from the page, and providing key insights from our leading experts with intimate knowledge of the research. Through the panels at our events, we also add a range of voices from the relevant sectors to create meaningful conversation about the issues the research seeks to address. To continue the delivering events of exceptional quality in 2021, the second year of a global pandemic, is once again a testament to the dedication of the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre team in creating meaningful impact through research.

## **Back in Business? WA small businesses and the impact of COVID-19**

5 February 2021, online

Special guests: **Sinead Taylor**, Executive General Manager, Bankwest; **Commissioner David Eaton**, Small Business Development Corporation; **Rachel Ferguson**, CEO and Founder, SynxBody.

## **BCEC|WGEA Gender Equity Insights 2021: Making it a priority**

26 March 2021, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

Special guests: **Hon. Simone McGurk MLA**, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services; **Libby Lyons**, Director, Workplace Gender Equality Agency; **Graham Kerr**, CEO, South32.

## **Housing Affordability in WA: A tale of two tenures**

24 June 2021, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

Special guests: **Mike Rowe**, Director General, Department of Communities; **Cath Hart**, Executive Director, Housing Industry Association WA; **Michelle Mackenzie**, CEO, ShelterWA; **Professor Steven Rowley**, Director, AHURI Curtin Research Centre; **Dr Amity James**, Deputy Director, AHURI Curtin Research Centre.

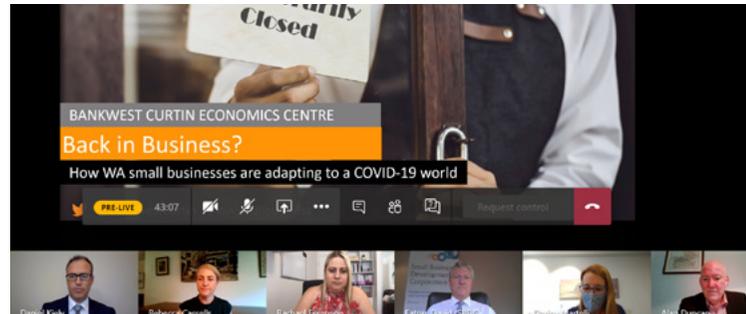
**Creativity at the Crossroads? The creative industries in Western Australia**

24 September 2021, Hackett Hall, WA Museum Boola Bardip  
 Special guests: **Dr Alec Coles OBE**, CEO, WA Museum Boola Bardip; **Shelagh Magadza**, Executive Director, Chamber of Arts and Culture WA; and **Al Taylor**, President of the Board, West Australian Music.



**Stronger Together: Loneliness and social connectedness in Australia**

19 November 2021, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre  
 Special guests: **Christine Allen**, Chief Executive Officer, Council on the Ageing Western Australia; **Brendan Cullinan**, Chief Executive Officer, People With disabilities Western Australia; and **Nick Maisey**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Befriend.



# POLICY INSIGHTS

High quality, policy-focussed research plays an essential role in public policy design, and good business practice. Much of the Centre's research is directed to this purpose. Our work creates a rigorous evidence base to support effective policy (re)design and implementation and identifies workplace policies and practices that lead to better business outcomes.

The BCEC|WGEA Gender Equity Insights report series continues to influence policy and practice both in Australia and internationally, underlining the power of the Centre's long-standing partnership with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency. Our 2021 report provided businesses with practical, evidence-informed advice on what works to narrow the gender gap in pay and progression within their workplaces. Findings from the research partnership were cited in the Federal Women's Budget Statement 2021-22, in particular our "*world-first study on [the benefits of] gender diversity in company leadership*".

One of the Centre's roles is to critique policies or initiatives to see to what extent the trajectory of policy reform is supported by empirical evidence. In 2021, Centre researchers interrogated the proposition that encouraging more women to study in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields leads to better labour market

outcomes. Published in the *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*, the research found that women draw greater benefit from key services such as health and education that are in high demand, and cautioned against an uncritical acceptance of the need for a higher proportion of people to specialise in traditional STEM fields.

A big tax policy debate in the run-up to the 2021-22 Federal Budget centred on the proposed withdrawal of the Low and Middle Income Tax Offset. BCEC released a Policy Briefing Note in advance of the budget that up to 3.4 million taxpayers would lose \$1,080 should the tax rebate be removed, with around 7 million people facing a reduction in their after-tax income. The Federal government subsequently reversed the decision.

This detailed analysis of the impact of tax reforms on Australian households was possible because of the Centre's EVITA-S tax policy evaluation model. We look forward to deepening our insights into tax policy design in the future, with work commencing in 2021 on further enhancements to EVITA that allow BCEC to model behavioural responses to tax and welfare policy reform.

In December, BCEC released a briefing note on the prevalence of family and domestic violence (FDV) in Australia as part of the 16 Days in WA campaign. The

analysis identified a rising prevalence of FDV across most states according to police reports, but also noted that this is potentially just the tip of the iceberg. Another important finding was the heightened risk periods for FDV, including holiday periods and when partners and families are in close confines such as lockdowns during COVID-19.



## Ten million face hip pocket hit without budget tax cut

By Shane Wight and David Crowe  
April 19, 2021 - 5:00am

The Morrison government and the opposition will have to promise tens of billions of dollars' worth of personal income tax cuts to 10 million workers on low and middle incomes — many of them women — or risk slowing Australia's recovery from the pandemic.

Analysis for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* shows people earning less than \$126,000 a year face a tax hike from next financial year.

Without any change, about 3.4 million people will be \$1080 a year worse off while another 7 million will have less take-home pay, according to the analysis by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Research Centre.



Josh Frydenberg hands down the 2020-21 budget which contained a one year extension of the low and middle income tax offset. The offset ends in 2021-22. SOURCE: GERRIER

It is due to the end of the low and middle income tax offset that was extended for one year in the 2020-21 budget as part of the decision by Treasurer Josh

Family and domestic violence in Australia: prevalence, impacts and response  
6 December 2021



## FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA Prevalence, impacts and responses

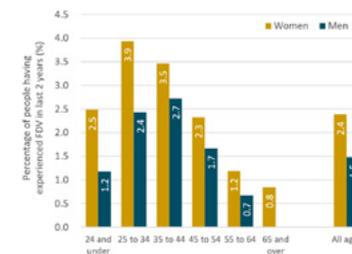
Alan Duncan, Astghik Mavisakalyan and Chris Twomey

### Family and domestic violence in Australia - what do we know?

Family and domestic violence (FDV) is pervasive. It occurs among family members, and especially in intimate partner relationships. Around 1 in 6 women (17.3%) and 1 in 16 men (6.1%) men in Australia report having experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner since the age of 15.<sup>1</sup> At these prevalence rates, more than 1.7 million women and 580,000 men in Australia will have experienced partner violence in 2020.

The incidence of recent FDV in Australia is highest among younger cohorts, with around 75,000 women aged 25 to 34 (3.9% of their cohort) having experienced partner violence over a two-year period (Figure 1). For men, the share is highest among those aged 35 to 44, with 42,900 (2.7%) having experienced partner violence in the last two years.

Figure 1: Share of people who have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner over a two-year period in Australia: by age and gender



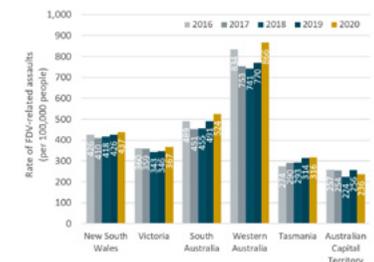
Notes: Percentages relate to the share of people who have experienced FDV from a cohabiting partner over a two-year period. This is to ensure sufficient sample size for reasonable statistical precision.

Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Data from Personal Safety Survey 2016

Figure 2 shows the overall prevalence of family and domestic violence-related assaults across selected states between 2016 and 2020. The general pattern is one of increasing FDV rates across most jurisdictions from 2018 onwards, with WA showing the highest overall FDV rates, at 866 per 100,000 according to ABS recorded crime data.

Sexual violence has spiked recently in NSW, with 86 incidents of sexual assaults per 100,000 people in 2020 — the highest rate across all state jurisdictions. Rates of sexual assault have risen between 2016 and 2020 in Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia, but fallen slightly in South Australia, to 59 per 100,000 people in 2020.

Figure 2: Rate of family and domestic violence-related assaults, selected states: 2016 to 2020



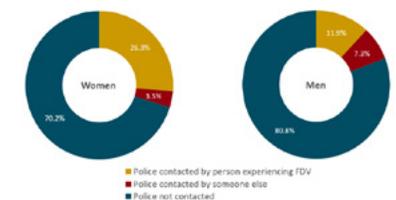
Notes: FDV-related assaults include assault resulting in serious injury, common assault, and sexual assault. Information on FDV assaults for Victoria is accessed from the Victorian Crime Statistics Agency, with all others based on ABS sources. Assault data are not reported to ABS for Queensland. Northern Territory is excluded due to lack of comparability of counts of FDV incidents.

Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Data from ABS Recorded Crimes - Victims (Table 30); Victorian Crime Statistics Agency (2021) Criminal incidents visualisation (Table 3).

The prevalence of FDV is known to be under-reported for a range of reasons including fear and safety, trust and concern of not being believed (Figure 4). During times of social crisis and increased personal stress such as those experienced through the COVID-19 pandemic, we are likely to see the prevalence of FDV go up if no action is taken.

Of those people who are assaulted by a cohabiting partner, the share who report the assault to the police is exceptionally low. Only a quarter of women (26.3%) and just over 1 in 9 men (11.9%) who experience FDV from a cohabiting partner report the incident to the police (Figure 3), with even smaller fractions of reports coming from someone else.

Figure 3: Share of people experiencing family and domestic violence from cohabiting partner who reported the most recent incident to police



Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Data from Personal Safety Survey 2016



# ACADEMIC RIGOUR

Research at the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is driven by a commitment to excellence and academic rigour, and the achievements of our researchers over the year have added to the Centre's reputation for cutting-edge, topical and policy-relevant research.

In 2021, Centre researchers contributed 26 peer-reviewed articles in some of the most prestigious economic, social and health policy journals in the world. The quality of scholarship is reflected in the fact that more than 70 per cent of the Centre's journal publications appeared in the top third of academic journals worldwide according to the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) journal quality list, including outlets such as the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, the *Southern Economic Journal*, the *Journal of Economic Geography* and the *Journal of Development Studies*.

The Centre is home to the *Australian Journal of Labour Economics* (AJLE), providing an outlet for peer-reviewed research by some of the best scholars

around the world on contemporary issues in labour economics. In 2021, the AJLE launched a special issue looking at gender issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic, both directly in the labour market and indirectly through its effects on particular aspects of economic and social life. A number of the contributors to the AJLE special issue presented their research at a live webinar hosted by the Women in Economics Network in November.

Centre researchers contribute extensively to the academic discipline through their participation on numerous Advisory Boards and committees. BCEC Deputy Director Rebecca Cassells was appointed Chair of the Organising Committee for the 2021 Australian Gender Economics Workshop (AGEW2021), with Associate Professor Astghik Mavisakalyan joining Rebecca on the committee. Astghik also served on the Organising Committee for the 2021 Australian Conference of Economists (ACE2021) along with BCEC Research Fellow Dr Silvia Salazar, with four BCEC colleagues sitting on the ACE2021 Economics Committee.

The scholarship of the Centre's researchers is reflected in their appointment to editorial roles for seven academic journals including the *Journal of Population Economics*, the *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*, the *Economic and Labour Relations Review*, *Spatial Economic Analysis* and the *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, and through seven Research Fellowship or Research Affiliate positions at organisations in Australia, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom.

The Centre hosted five doctoral researchers and supervised the dissertations of five Honours students in 2021. BCEC PhD Scholars Jaslin Kalsi and Chris Phelps were awarded doctorates during the year, both of which were recognised for research excellence. Jaslin received a Commendation from Curtin University and Chris won the Peter Barrington Gold Medal from the Australian Property Research and Education Fund (APREF).

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## Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

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### Gender health gaps: The role of risky addictive behaviors<sup>☆</sup>

Abebe Hailemariam<sup>a</sup>, Siew Ling Yew<sup>b,\*</sup>, Samuelson Appau<sup>c</sup>

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 Risky addictive behaviors

**ABSTRACT**

Despite significant improvements in health and longevity, the gender gap in health persists. Using longitudinal data from 15 waves of the HILDA survey for the period from 2005 to 2019, this paper examines the impacts of risky addictive behaviors given by smoking, drinking and gambling on health outcomes and the gender gap in general and mental health in Australia. To identify the causal effects of cigarette and alcohol consumption, we utilize exogenous policy changes in the Australian Wine Equalization Tax (WET) and cigarette excise taxes to instrument alcohol and cigarette consumption, respectively. For gambling, we utilize state-level number of gambling machines to instrument the problem gambling severity index. We find that Australian females tend to have better general health but worse mental health outcomes than their male counterparts. More importantly, our instrumental variable estimates reveal the role of risky addictive behaviors in influencing the gender gap in health. Specifically, smoking and gambling widen the gender gap in general health, whereas alcohol consumption plays no role in affecting the gender gap in general health. For mental health, our results show that smoking and gambling reduce the gender gap in mental health, whereas alcohol consumption tends to increase the gender gap in mental health. We find that social support, neighborhood trust, dietary choice and life satisfaction are important channels through which risky addictive behaviors influence general and mental health outcomes. Our results have important policy implications as health quality in general, and gender health equality in particular, are important determinants of standards of living, productivity, and economic development.

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**1. Introduction**

Health has a number of important economic effects. At the aggregate level, a healthy population spurs economic growth and development as healthier people are more economically productive (Sachs, 2001). At the individual level, a healthier person is likely to have a higher quality of active lifetime for labor, leisure, and consumption. Despite significant improvements in health and longevity, the gender gap in health persists. When looking at gender health gaps, it is important to note that women are better than men in some areas but worse in others. For example, women live longer than men,

<sup>☆</sup> Disclaimer: This paper uses data from the Household, Income and Labor Dynamics in Australia survey. The Household, Income and Labor Dynamics in Australia Project was initiated and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and is managed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. The findings and views reported in this paper, however, are those of the authors and should not be attributed to either Department of Social Services or the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.

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# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Awards

Centre staff have again been recognised for their outstanding work throughout the year. We are proud to outline and highlight some of the awards conferred in 2021.

### Engagement Australia Awards 2021

The Centre was announced as a finalist in the prestigious Engagement Australia Awards 2021 in the Outstanding Engagement for Research Impact category. This nomination recognised the research partnership between the Centre and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA), and the compelling evidence on gender pay gaps and other gender equity indicators in Australian workplaces provided through the BCEC|WGEA Gender Equity Insights report series.

### Curtin Research and Engagement Awards

The Centre has enjoyed another outstanding year for media impact, with BCEC's Associate Professor Rebecca Cassells and Professor Alan Duncan being recognised for their media commentary at the Curtin Research and Engagement Awards:

- Most prolific media commentator for the Faculty of Business and Law – Rebecca Cassells
- Top five media commentators for the Faculty of Business and Law – Alan Duncan

### PhD commendation

BCEC PhD graduate Dr Jaslin Kalsi received a Commendation from Curtin University Chancellor Dr Andrew Crane for her thesis on intra-household inequalities. Titled *Essays on the Intra-household Distribution of Wellbeing: Australian Mixed-Sex Couples at Key Life Course Stages*, Jaslin's PhD thesis was recognised for its "exceptionally high standard" by Dr Crane, and was passed with no revisions this year – a rare feat. Jaslin was co-supervised through her PhD studies by Associate Professor Astghik Mavisakalyan, Principal Research Fellow at the Centre, and Curtin University Professor Siobhan Austen.

### 2021 Peter Barrington Gold Medal Award

BCEC PhD scholar Dr Chris Phelps was awarded the prestigious Peter Barrington Gold Medal in 2021 by the Australian Property Research and Education Fund for his doctoral thesis, *Essays Connecting Australian Dwelling Price Growth and Subjective Wellbeing to Within-City Income and Wealth Differentials*.

### Curtin University School of Accounting, Economics and Finance research colloquium award

Centre Research Fellow Lili Loan Vu was awarded the Best Paper Award for Early Career Researchers at the Curtin University School of Accounting, Economics and Finance research colloquium. Lili's paper on *Agricultural*

*production diversity and child nutritional outcomes in rural Myanmar* has since been published in the *Journal of Development Studies*.

**Economic Society of Australia WA**  
Centre Research Assistant Austen Peters was awarded the Economic Society of Australia (WA) Prize for the best Honours Thesis in Economics at Curtin University. Austen completed his dissertation in labour economics on **Course Non-Completion and Multiple Qualifications: Re-estimating the Returns to Education in Australia** under the supervision of BCEC's Professor Mike Dockery and Dr Sherry Bawa, Senior Lecturer in Curtin University's School of Accounting, Economics and Finance.

### Careers successes

We take a great deal of pride as a Centre in the professional achievements of our current and former staff and recent PhD alumni. Their successes reflect the Centre's commitment to fostering talent and creating a culture that supports and builds careers.

### Nyasha Maketo

Nyasha is a recent Curtin graduate and former Research Assistant at the Centre, and has since entered the KPMG Graduate program in the Audit and Assurance department.

### Michael Kirkness

Formerly a Research Assistant at the Centre, Michael moved on to the 2021 Taxation Graduate program at the Australian Taxation Office.

### Dr Jaslin Kalsi

Jaslin graduated from Curtin University in 2021 through the Centre's PhD Scholarship program, receiving a Commendation for her PhD thesis. Since then, Jaslin secured a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from Curtin University to progress her research into household decisions and intergenerational wellbeing.

### Dr Chris Phelps

Chris recently graduated as a Centre PhD scholar, winning the 2021 Peter Barrington Gold Medal for his thesis. In 2021, Chris secured a Postdoctoral Research Associate position at Curtin University School of Accounting, Economics and Finance, working on a program of research on home ownership and housing wealth.

### Dr Steven Bond-Smith

After five years as Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow at the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, Dr Steven Bond-Smith took up a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHRO), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Steven retains an adjunct affiliation with the Centre.

### Dr Toan Nguyen

Toan was the inaugural recipient of the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre PhD Scholarship in 2015 and the Centre's very first PhD graduate. In November 2021, Toan took up a Research Fellow position in the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics at the Australian National University.



# OUR PEOPLE

Our staff deliver academically excellent, accessible research for the benefit of Western Australians.

Our researchers were challenged by the realities of a global pandemic this year, as were many around the country, but continued to combine their passion for socially-minded economic research with academic rigour to contribute to essential policy debates. Our professional team continued to deliver first rate events and engagement in a very challenging environment, ensuring that the Centre's research was accessible and available for all.

We welcomed some new faces this year and bid a fond farewell to some old ones, wishing them all the best, and thanking them for their wonderful contributions to the Centre.

We were thrilled to welcome an outstanding cohort of new research assistants, drawn from promising Curtin University Economics students. We are extremely proud to be able to foster this next generation of talent.

## LEADERSHIP



**Professor Alan Duncan**  
Director



**Associate Professor  
Rebecca Cassells**  
Deputy Director



**Caroline Stewart**  
Business Manager



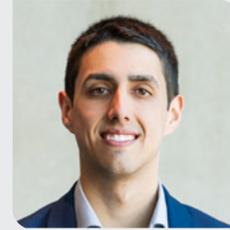
**Dr Abebe Hailemariam**  
Research Fellow



**Alex Buckland**  
Research Assistant



**Associate Professor  
Astghik Mavisakalyan**  
Principal Research Fellow



**Austen Peters**  
Research Assistant



**Chris Twomey**  
Senior Industry Fellow



**Dr Christopher Phelps**  
BCEC PhD Scholar



**Dr Daniel Kiely**  
Senior Research Fellow



**Helen Farmiloe**  
Administrative Officer



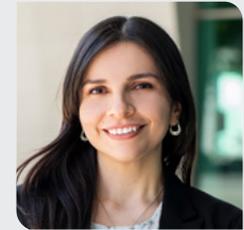
**Dr Jaslin Kalsi**  
BCEC PhD Scholar



**Joanna Holcombe**  
Communications and  
Engagement Coordinator



**Dr Lili Loan Vu**  
Research Fellow



**Maria Sandoval-  
Guzman**  
BCEC-WiSER PhD Scholar



**Professor Michael Dockery**  
Principal Research Fellow



**Nyasha Maketo**  
Research Assistant



**Dr Richard Seymour**  
Research Fellow



**Rob Mackay**  
BCEC PhD Scholar



**Sandie Rawnsley**  
Editor



**Shane Dillon**  
BCEC PhD Scholar



**Dr Silvia Salazar**  
Research Fellow



**Dr Steven Bond-Smith**  
Senior Research Fellow

# OUR PUBLICATIONS 2021

At the heart of the Centre's growing national and international reputation is the unique blend of academic rigour, topicality and policy relevance it brings to cutting-edge research and analysis.

Our publications cover a broad spectrum, from major reports, policy briefs and government submissions through to scholarly journal articles, but the common thread is to inform policy makers, commentators and the public on the issues and challenges facing Australia. Never has this been more important.

We provide regular expert insights and analysis through our Monthly Labour Market Updates, Quarterly Economic Commentaries and Briefing Notes. Our researchers also publish in some of the best economic and policy journals in the world.

## Marquee Reports

Back in Business? WA Small Businesses and the Impact of COVID-19. *BCEC Focus on Western Australia report #14*, by Rebecca Cassells, Alan Duncan and Daniel Kiely (5 February 2021)

Gender Equity Insights 2021: Making it a priority. *BCEC/WGEA Gender Equity Insights series #6*, by Rebecca Cassells and Alan Duncan (26 March 2021)

Housing Affordability in WA: A tale of two tenures. *BCEC Focus on Western Australia report #15*, by Adam Crowe, Alan Duncan, Amity James and Steven Rowley (24 June 2021)

Creativity at the Crossroads? The creative industries in Western Australia. *BCEC Focus on Industry report #6*, by Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan, Abebe Hailemariam, Silvia Salazar and Richard Seymour (24 September 2021)

Stronger Together: Loneliness and social connectedness in Australia. *BCEC Focus on the States report #7*, by Alan Duncan, Daniel Kiely, Astghik Mavisakalyan, Austen Peters, Richard Seymour, Chris Twomey and Lili Loan Vu (19 November 2021)

### Other BCEC Research Reports

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mobility in Central Australia: Survey Reference Guide, Volume 1: Baseline Survey. *Report for Ninti One CRC for Remote Economic Participation*, by Mike Dockery and Maria Julieta Rottemberg (8 November 2021)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mobility in Central Australia: Survey Reference Guide, Volume 2: Follow-up Survey. *Report for Ninti One CRC for Remote Economic Participation*, by Mike Dockery and Maria Julieta Rottemberg (8 November 2021)

Australia's first regional digital innovation district and city. *Report to the City of Bunbury*, by Steven Bond-Smith, Alan Duncan, Silvia Salazar and Richard Seymour (5 April 2021)

Relationships between metropolitan, satellite and regional city size, spatial context and economic productivity. *AHURI Final Report No. 357, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited*. By Chris Leishman, Steven Bond-Smith, Weidong Liang, Jinqiao Long, Duncan MacLennan and Steven Rowley (24 June 2021)

### BCEC Policy Briefs and Briefing Notes

Extending the Low- and Middle-Income Tax Offset Beyond 2020-21. *BCEC Policy Brief 2021*, by Rebecca Cassells and Alan Duncan (5 May 2021)

Family and Domestic Violence in Australia. *BCEC Briefing Note 2021*, by Alan Duncan, Astghik Mavisakalyan and Chris Twomey (8 December 2021)

### BCEC Public Submissions

BCEC submission to the Review of the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (November 2021)

### BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - December 2020. By Rebecca Cassells, Michael Dockery and Alan Duncan (29 January 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - January 2021. By Rebecca Cassells, Michael Dockery and Alan Duncan (26 February 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - February 2021. By Rebecca Cassells, Michael Dockery and Alan Duncan (19 March 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - March 2021. By Rebecca Cassells, Michael Dockery and Alan Duncan (22 April 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - April 2021. By Rebecca Cassells, Michael Dockery and Alan Duncan (24 May 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - May 2021. By Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan and Astghik Mavisakalyan (29 June 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - June 2021. By Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan and Astghik Mavisakalyan (23 July 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - July 2021. By Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan and Astghik Mavisakalyan (23 August 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - August 2021. By Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan and Astghik Mavisakalyan (21 September 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - September 2021. By Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan and Astghik Mavisakalyan (20 October 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - October 2021. By Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan and Astghik Mavisakalyan (15 November 2021)

BCEC Monthly Labour Market Update - November 2021. By Michael Dockery, Alan Duncan and Astghik Mavisakalyan (20 December 2021)

### BCEC Quarterly Economic Commentary

BCEC Quarterly Economic Commentary - March 2021. By Alan Duncan, Rebecca Cassells, Steven Bond-Smith and Silvia Salazar (9 March 2021)

BCEC Quarterly Economic Commentary - June 2021. By Alan Duncan, Rebecca Cassells, Steven Bond-Smith and Silvia Salazar (8 June 2021)

BCEC Quarterly Economic Commentary - September 2021. By Alan Duncan, Daniel Kiely and Silvia Salazar (12 October 2021)

### BCEC Journal Articles

Is there an informal employment penalty in food security? Evidence from rural Vietnam, *European Journal of Development Research*. By Lili Loan Vu and Anu Rammohan. January 2021 (B)

Forecasting the dynamic relationship between crude oil and stock prices since the 19th century, *Journal of Commodity Markets*. By Kris Ivanovski and Abebe Hailemariam. January 2021 (A)

The effect of renewable and non-renewable energy consumption on economic growth: Non-parametric evidence, *Journal of Cleaner Production*. By Kris Ivanovski, Abebe Hailemariam and Russell Smyth. January 2021 (A)

# OUR PUBLICATIONS 2021 (continued)

The impact of geopolitical risk on tourism, *Current Issues in Tourism*. By Abebe Hailemariam and Kris Ivanovski. January 2021 (A)

Heaven can wait: Future tense and religiosity, *Journal of Population Economics*. By Astghik Mavisakalyan, Yashar Tarverdi and Clas Weber. May 2021 (A)

Can bribery buy health? Evidence from post-communist countries, *Journal of Comparative Economics*. By Astghik Mavisakalyan, Vladimir Otrachshenko and Olga Popova. May 2021 (A)

Preferences for government assistance to forced migrants: Do perceptions of disadvantage matter?, *Journal of Developing Areas*. By Astghik Mavisakalyan and Arusyak Sevoyan. May 2021 (B)

Bachelor degree participation in vocational institutions: Examining the determinants of participation, *International Journal of Training Research*. By Paul Koshy, Sue Webb, Michael Dockery and Elizabeth Knight. May 2021 (B)

Changing demand for STEM skills in Australia and gender implications, *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*. By Michael Dockery, John Phillimore and Sherry Bawa. June 2021 (B)

Foreign aid and the quality of economic Institutions, *European Journal of Political Economy*. By Ratbek Dzhumashev and Abebe Hailemariam. June 2021 (A)

The role of conflict in sex discrimination: the case of missing girls, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. By Astghik Mavisakalyan and Anna Minasyan. June 2021 (A)

The impact of energy poverty on physical violence, *Energy Economics*. By Abebe Hailemariam, Tutsirai Sakutukwa and Siew Ling Yew. August 2021 (A\*)

Secondary students' access to careers information: the role of socio-economic background, *Australian Educational Researcher*. By Michael Dockery, Sherry Bawa and Jane Coffey. August 2021 (B)

Exposure to conflicts and the continuum of maternal health care, *PLOS Medicine*. By Anu Rammohan, Astghik Mavisakalyan, Lili Loan Vu and Srinivas Goli. September 2021 (A\*)

Time-varying geopolitical risk and oil prices, *International Review of Economics & Finance*. By Kris Ivanovski and Abebe Hailemariam. October 2021 (A)

Gender health gaps: The role of risky addictive behaviors, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. By Abebe Hailemariam, Siew Ling Yew and Samuelson Appau. October 2021 (A\*)

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