



BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

SHARING THE BOOM

The distribution of income and wealth in WA

Focus on Western Australia Report Series, No. 1
February 2014

Wednesday 26 February
from 7:15am until 9am
Bankwest Place
300 Murray Street, Perth

ABOUT THE BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is an independent economic and social research organisation located within the Curtin Business School at Curtin University. The Centre was established in 2012 through the generous support from Bankwest (a division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia), with a core mission to undertake high quality, objective research on the key economic and social issues of relevance to Western Australia.

The Centre's research and engagement activities are designed to influence economic and social policy debates in state and Federal Parliament, regional and national media, and the wider Australian community. Through high quality, evidence-based research and analysis, our research outcomes inform policy makers and commentators of the economic challenges to achieving sustainable and equitable growth and prosperity both in Western Australia and nationally.

The Centre brings a unique philosophy to research on the major economic issues facing Western Australia. By bringing together experts from the research, policy and business communities at all stages of the process - from framing and conceptualising research questions, through the conduct of research, to the communication and implementation of research findings - we ensure that our research is relevant, fit for purpose, and makes a genuine difference to the lives of Australians both in WA and nationally.

The Centre is able to capitalise on Curtin University's reputation for excellence in economic modelling, forecasting, public policy research, trade and industrial economics and spatial sciences. Centre researchers have specific expertise in economic forecasting, quantitative modelling, micro-data analysis and economic and social policy evaluation. The Centre also derives great value from its close associations with experts from commercial, public service and not-for-profit organisations.



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PROGRAM

7:00am	Registrations open
7:15am	Guests seated
7:20am	Welcome by MC James Lush
7:25am	Breakfast is served
7:40am	Introduction by Rob De Luca Managing Director, Bankwest
7:45am	Report Launch: Sharing the Boom: the distribution of income and wealth in WA Professor Alan Duncan Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre
8:10am	Panel Discussion and Q&A facilitated by James Lush Sue Ash, CEO, UnitingCare West Tim Marney, Mental Health Commissioner and former Under Treasurer Deidre Willmott, recently appointed Chief Executive, CCIWA Professor Alan Duncan, Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre
8:35am	Session wrap-up by MC James Lush
8:40am	Vote of thanks Professor Jill Downie, Acting Vice Chancellor, Curtin University
9:00am	Event ends

WELCOME FROM PROFESSOR ALAN DUNCAN



Alan Duncan
Director
Bankwest Curtin
Economics Centre

Welcome to launch of the first report in the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre *Focus on Western Australia* series: **Sharing the Boom: the distribution of income and wealth in WA.**

Western Australia has enjoyed a period of abnormally high growth, primarily stemming from the mining boom, with iron ore supply and demand culminating in a match made in GDP heaven. Economic growth in WA rose by 5.1 per cent between 2012 and 2013, well above the national average of 2.6 per cent and remained strong during the global economic downturn. Unemployment has remained consistently low across the state, wages high and the housing market has swelled, along with the traffic on Perth's major roads.

This report explores the distribution of income and wealth over the course of the latest resource boom, questioning the extent to which the wealth of WA has been enjoyed by all who live here. We investigate which WA households have seen their economic circumstances improve, and which may have been left behind. How much and what type of wealth do WA households hold compared to the rest of Australia? Has their net worth increased more than in previous years compared with other states?

We're very excited to welcome our high-profile panel to this event: Sue Ash, CEO, UnitingCare West, Tim Marney, Mental Health Commissioner and former Under Treasurer, and Deidre Willmott, incoming Chief Executive at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA. Today's launch brings together leading thinkers from government, industry and the not-for-profit sector to share their opinions of the findings of the report and create new conversations around the issues explored.

Please enjoy breakfast, networking with friends, colleagues and new acquaintances, and we hope that this report generates a continuing exploration of what the boom has meant for West Australians.

Professor Alan Duncan
Director
Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

SUE ASH, CEO, UNITINGCARE WEST



Sue Ash
Chief Executive Officer
UnitingCare West

Sue Ash holds the position of Chief Executive Officer of UnitingCare West, a not-for-profit community services agency providing a diverse range of services in the areas of independent living and accommodation; mental health and disability; community and family support in order to support, serve and empower people, particularly those most in need.

In Sue's previous role as CEO of the West Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS), she was a leader in social policy development and advocacy on behalf of the community services sector.

Sue has a broad ranging career which has spanned the community services sector including Wanslea and Care Options; working in service delivery and management in both State, ACT and Commonwealth government agencies; and in education. Sue has lectured in social work, social policy and human services.

Sue is engaged with a range of government and community service peak organisations including the State Emergency Management Committee, the Premier's Partnership Forum and Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH), the WA State Committee of National Disability Services Commission and a range of advisory groups.

In 1999, Sue was a State Category winner and National Finalist of the Telstra Business Woman of the Year Awards. She is a member of Australian Institute of Management (AIM) and the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). Sue was the joint winner of the IPAAWA Not for Profit Leader of the Year award in 2012.

TIM MARNEY, MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Tim Marney
Mental Health
Commissioner
and former Under
Treasurer

Timothy Marney was appointed as Mental Health Commissioner in February 2014.

A graduate of Murdoch University, Tim has 20 years experience in economics and finance with the State and Federal Governments. Mr Marney joined the WA Department of Treasury in 1993, where he held the position of Under Treasurer of Western Australia since 2005.

In his role as Under Treasurer, Mr Marney gained an in-depth understanding of the health system and health reform initiatives. He also held responsibility for the State Government's procurement agency, led the Government's Economic Audit and subsequent reform of non-government service delivery.

Mr Marney has served on the board of *beyondblue*, the national depression and anxiety initiative, since 2008, and has been deputy chair of the board for the past three years.

Tim has been a vocal advocate of mental health issues and has spoken openly of his own experience with depression and anxiety.

DEIDRE WILLMOTT, INCOMING CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CCIWA



Deidre Willmott
Incoming Chief
Executive
Chamber of
Commerce and
Industry of WA

Deidre Willmott is a government and public relations executive with decades of experience in both the public and private sectors. Deidre is a leading and active figure in WA's resources and energy sectors, which she serves as a member of the AMEC Council. Deidre is a qualified lawyer and worked in private practice at law firm Parker & Parker prior to joining the WA Government. She has held a number of high profile positions in industry and government including Chief of Staff to the Hon Colin Barnett, Chief of Staff to former Premier Hon Richard Court, Executive Director: Policy for the Chamber of Commerce & Industry WA and General Manager Executive Services at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

More recently Deidre was the Director External Relations at Fortescue Metals Group where she was responsible for communications with all levels of Government, particularly in securing approvals for Fortescue's major expansion projects.

Deidre was appointed Chief Executive, CCI in December 2013 and will take up that position in March 2014.

MC: JAMES LUSH



James Lush
Lush Digital

James left the UK back in 2004 and arrived in Perth to space, blue skies, easy lifestyle and a wonderful place to bring up a young family.

Married to Alex and with one son (Jasper) at the time it didn't take long to settle into the 'lucky country'. With a love of sport, socialising and opportunity... this was the right place to be.

Now twins Isabel and Archie have completed the family unit and made for one very noisy household.

The media is in James's blood.

Back in the UK James presented a daily show for the BBC for years and grew a media business that focused on production and consultancy. Now in Australia, it's more of the same. For the past three years James has presented almost every show on 720 ABC at least once.

When not working and free from family duties, James enjoys making the most of what the new sunny lifestyle offers. That normally involves playing some sport or other - squash, golf, tennis or dashing here there and everywhere on the red scooter.

He is a consummate host, even off the radio, acting as MC at many Perth events.

James is a co-founder of Lush Digital, a multimedia production company dedicated to the creation of engaging digital storytelling.

ATTENDEES

Prof Fran Ackermann

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