



BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

WORKFORCE AND SKILLS

WA labour markets in transition

Focus on Western Australia Report Series, No. 3
August 2014

Thursday 21 August
from 7:30am until 9:00am
Bankwest Place
300 Murray Street, Perth

PROGRAM

7:15am	Registrations open
7:30am	Guests seated and welcomed by MC Nadia Mitsopoulos Breakfast is served
7:45am	Introduction David Nolan Head of Legal & Government Affairs, Bankwest
7:50am	Report Launch Workforce and skills: WA labour markets in transition Prof Alan Duncan Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre
8:20am	Panel Discussion and Q&A facilitated by Nadia Mitsopoulos Irina Cattalini CEO, WACOSS Prof Alan Duncan Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre Dr John Edwards Adjunct Professor, John Curtin Institute of Public Policy & Board Member, Reserve Bank of Australia Dr Ruth Shean Director General, Department of Training and Workforce Development
8:50am	Session wrap-up by MC Nadia Mitsopoulos
8:55am	Vote of thanks Professor Graeme Wright Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Development, Curtin University
9:00am	Event ends

WELCOME FROM PROFESSOR ALAN DUNCAN



Alan Duncan
Director
Bankwest Curtin
Economics Centre

Welcome to launch of the third report in the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre's 'Focus on Western Australia' series: **Workforce and skills: WA labour markets in transition.**

One of the most important economic issues facing Western Australia is that of the state's future workforce and skills needs. Maintaining WA's strong economic growth trajectory as it moves from the construction to production phase of the resources boom is paramount to the future stability of the state, and is dependent on well-functioning labour markets and a healthy, skilled and productive workforce.

This third BCEC report seeks to understand the trajectory of the Western Australian labour market – where it has come from, where it currently stands, and where it is headed in a time of transition. What changes can we expect in demands for skilled labour in WA, and does the state's workforce have sufficient versatility to adapt to a changed industrial landscape? The report highlights issues that West Australian workers can relate to on a personal level – equality of opportunity, work flexibility, job insecurity and the challenges of balancing work and family.

At this breakfast, assisted by commentary from an outstanding panel of experts: Irina Cattalini CEO, Western Australian Council on Social Services (WACOSS); Dr John Edwards, Member of the Board, Reserve Bank of Australia and Adjunct Professor, John Curtin Institute of Public Policy; and Dr Ruth Shean Director General, Department of Training and Workforce Development, we hope to generate discussion among our audience on how to maximise WA's workforce potential.

Please enjoy breakfast and networking with friends, colleagues and new acquaintances. We hope that this report series continues to inform debate and build policy on key issues of importance to the State and the nation.

Professor Alan Duncan
Director
Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

IRINA CATTALINI, CEO WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE (WACOSS)



Irina Cattalini
CEO,
Western Australian
Council of Social
Service (WACOSS)

Irina has a strong commitment to working within civil society to bring about sustainable social change for the Western Australian community. She has worked professionally within a social justice framework in the community sector for fourteen years.

Irina joined WACOSS in 2005, where she is currently Chief Executive Officer, and has also held the position of Director, Social Policy leading the policy, research and advocacy work of WA's leading community service peak body.

Irina has an Honours Degree in Political Science from the University of WA and is a Fellow of Leadership WA.

DR JOHN EDWARDS BOARD MEMBER, RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA



Dr John Edwards
Board Member,
Reserve Bank of
Australia

John Edwards is an economist who is a member of the Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Visiting Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, a member of the Board of Skills Australia and Adjunct Professor at the John Curtin Institute for Public Policy at Curtin University. In January 2012 he was appointed one of three members of the Australian Government's Review of the Fair Work Act.

Until July 2011 he was Executive Director for Economic Planning and Development (EPD) for the Economic Development Board (EDB) of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Before that John was for twelve years Chief Economist for Australia and New Zealand for the global financial group, HSBC.

Earlier in his career John was principal economic adviser to Treasurer and then Prime Minister, Paul Keating.

John has published four books, including a narrative history of the MX missile program Superweapon, (Norton 1982) and an account of Australian economic policy making under the former Treasurer and Prime Minister Keating - the inside story (Viking 1996). His most recent book is Curtin's Gift (Allen and Unwin 2005), an analysis of changes in Australia's economic framework in the Second World War.

DE RUTH SHEAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Dr Ruth Shean
Director General
Department
of Training
and Workforce
Development

Dr Ruth Shean is the Director General of the Western Australian government's Department of Training and Workforce Development, a position which she commenced in December 2009.

While at DTWD, Ruth has led the development of Skilling WA, Western Australia's Workforce Plan. She has also overseen the development of the state's Skilled Migration Strategy and the Western Australian State Migration Plan.

Prior to her current role, Ruth was Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, the government watchdog which oversaw standards within the public sector and assisted with the appointment of government CEOs. Her other previous roles include Director General of the Disability Services Commission and Director General of the Department for Community Development – a position to which she was directly appointed at the request of the Premier.

Ruth has also been a non government CEO, and has held leadership positions on both state and federal government reviews and committees. She has comprehensive experience in university governance, having been on governing councils of both Curtin and Murdoch Universities. Dr Shean has a Masters Degree and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Western Australia. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and holds a Graduate Diploma from the Institute.

ATTENDEES

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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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