
Inequality in Australia

Updated Program

A one-day conference to be held on Thursday 2 November 2006

Venue: HC Coombs Lecture Theatre, Fellows Road, Australian National University

Jointly presented by the Economics Program and Social and Political Theory Program
in the Research School of Social Sciences.

8.45-9.00am Coffee & registration

9.00-9.05am **Andrew Leigh, Australian National University**

Chair's Welcome

9.05-10.30am **Christopher Jencks, Harvard University**

Why Should We Care About Inequality?

10.30-11.00am Morning tea

11.00-12.00pm **Peter Saunders, University of New South Wales**

Reshaping Australian Egalitarianism in an Era of Prosperity

12.00-12.45pm **Andrew Leigh, Australian National University**

Top Incomes in Australia Over the Twentieth Century

12.45-1.45pm Lunch

1.45-2.45pm **Bob Gregory, Australian National University**

Why is Child Poverty so Large and so Permanent?

2.45-3.15pm Afternoon tea

3.15-4.30pm **Inequality Roundtable**

Panellists: Christopher Jencks, Bob Gregory, Peter Saunders

Chair: Andrew Leigh

4.30pm- Drinks

The sessions will encompass trends in inequality in Australia, comparisons with other developed countries, factors affecting inequality, and the implications of inequality for Australian society. Each session will include time for general discussion. This event is particularly well-suited to policymakers and experts working on issues related to inequality in Australia.



About the Speakers

Christopher Sandy Jencks is the Malcolm Wiener Professor of Social Policy and one of the most significant inequality analysts of his time. He has taught at Harvard, Northwestern, the University of Chicago, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. Earlier, he was a Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC (1963 to 1967) and an editor of the *New Republic* (1961 to 1963). He is currently a member of the Editorial Board of the *American Prospect*. His recent research deals with changes in family structure over the past generation, the costs and benefits of economic inequality, the extent to which economic advantages are inherited, and the effects of welfare reform. His books include *The Academic Revolution* (with David Riesman); *Inequality: Who Gets Ahead?*; *The Urban Underclass* (with Paul Peterson); *Rethinking Social Policy*; *The Homeless*; and *The Black White Test Score Gap* (with Meredith Phillips).

Peter Saunders is an Australian Professorial Fellow in the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. His research interests include the measurement, causes and consequences of poverty; budget standards and household needs; income distribution and economic inequality; economic aspects of social security; social policy and the welfare state; comparative social policy, including in OECD and East Asian countries; public finance, including taxation policy and the role of government in the economy; international comparisons of government size and economic performance.

Bob Gregory is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is currently a Visiting Fellow in the Research School of Social Sciences in the Australian National University, Canberra. Professor Gregory has been closely involved in Australian economic policy development. He was a member of the Committee on Employment Opportunities which prepared a Discussion Paper that acted as a precursor to the Government's 1994 Working Nation. He was also a member of the Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia from 1985-95. From 1986-91 he was a member of the Australian Sciences and Technology Council. Professor Gregory is an elected fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (1979), and in 1996 was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for contributions to economic policy. He has been President of the Economic Society of Australia and was awarded the Economic Society of Australia's Distinguished Fellow Medal in 2002. Professor Gregory has held positions at the London School of Economics, Industries Assistance Commission, Northwester University, and the Federal Reserve Board, Washington. In 1983-84 was Professor of Australian Studies at Harvard University and was Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago in 1994.

Andrew Leigh is a Fellow in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. His current research is in the fields of labour economics, public finance and political economy. He has published over 20 journal articles in the disciplines of economics, public policy and law. Andrew is the co-editor (with David Burchell) of *The Prince's New Clothes: Why do Australians Dislike Their Politicians?* and the co-author (with Macgregor Duncan, David Madden and Peter Tynan) of *Imagining Australia: Ideas for Our Future*.