

Recorded live on 15/03/2022

- 00:17:53 Rudolf (Rudy) Blums: Hallo from Belgrave Wurundjeri land
- 00:18:18 Les Winton: Hello from Sydney
- 00:18:19 Rosie Ratcliff: Good morning, Rosie from PSA SA on Kurna land.
- 00:18:32 Anne Heard: Hi from Qld, Quandamooka country
- 00:18:57 Mithrani Mahadeva: Hello From Bunnarong ,from the Kulin Nation
- 00:19:04 Anne Layton-Bennett: Hello from lutruwita/Tasmania - the northern bit
- 00:19:30 Gerry Biddle: Hello everyone from Torquay VIC
- 00:19:30 Bob Scott: Hello all, from Yuin land.
- 00:19:31 Rachel Hay: Hi all - Rachel from The Australia Institute here. Thanks for joining us today. Looking forward to a great webinar!

A little reminder, the chat has options for 'hosts and panelists' or 'everyone'. Choose the latter option to participate in the chat with everyone.

Use the Q&A function to submit questions for the panel to answer live! You can also upvote other people's questions.

- 00:19:39 Brett Kerrison: Good morning from Jaggera country QLD
- 00:19:44 robert butterfield: Hello from Noongar Country WA
- 00:19:52 Tim Dymond: Hello from Whadjuk country in Western Australia.
- 00:20:14 sheila pollard: Hi, all from Sheila
- 00:21:07 Eileen Whitehead: Looking forward to hearing this particular webinar. From Whadjuk Noongar country in WA
- 00:21:10 Michael Avis: I am an transport driver who lost there job due to age and health. Canberra
- 00:23:01 Amy Boyle: Good Morning! Amy the Finance Sector Union here, joining from Cammeraygal land
- 00:23:05 David Skidmore: David Skidmore, union member and advocate for people with disability in NSW.
- 00:23:52 Gerry Biddle: Fudiacary duty by Frydenberg owes taxpayers \$38 billion for job keeper that went to those ineligible- should be fired for incompetence
- 00:24:34 Richard Naylor: More of Australia needs to hear this before the election. Thanks Michele.
- 00:24:50 Keith Johnson: G'Day, Keith Johnson Western Australia. Retired Prison Officer.
- 00:25:46 Rob Calvert: Well said Gerry, great economic managers, my foot!

*This chat log is unedited and published in full. It does not reflect the views of The Australia Institute*

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00:26:26 David Skidmore: It is becoming harder to be a wage earner at the same time as the government wants to make it easier for people to get into debt. This is economically unsustainable.

00:26:51 Graeme Tychsen: It is not a problem low wages, but a social disease/cancer. Cooee from an uninvited guest of noncedable, that is, custodial, Awabakal sovereignty, coal dust blasted by the mindless lacerating of the Hunter Valley open cut, torture.

00:27:07 Anne Layton-Bennett: Agree Rob, It's long baffled me why so many still believe the lie that the Liberals are better economic managers. They have proved time and again they aren't.

00:27:27 Steve Baty: Steve Baty, Australian Democrats, joining from Wangal land in Sydney

00:27:58 Michael Avis: Michael Avis I share an income with my wife who works in childcare.

00:29:23 Rosemary Watson: From Kooyong I put Frydenberg last on every ballot since he first stood for election, please help us to put him out of office. He does nothing but parrot LNP policy.

00:30:56 Keighley Williams: with you RW

00:31:12 Graeme Tychsen: Anne they just say the right words and fear is a stronghold for getting people on side and that is what the coalition always plays to at the expense of hope. An Anglo-Saxon culture does not have a good social grasp of freedom, and this is at the expense of many Angl-Saxons as well. An Australian recently married went to live in Finland for the first year of marriage, now does not want to return having seen what it means to put people first which should be in your face in an egalitarian nation, which this isn't. Richard Denniss' words on The Drum were pitch perfect for what is a healthy Australia, including the social and would have fallen on ears that should hear but refuse to, for fear there will be an explosion of "bludgers" and leaners.

00:31:22 Keighley Williams: [thenewblurt.substack.com](http://thenewblurt.substack.com)

00:32:51 Eddie OTTO: Rather than talking "average" wage, the public must be educated to the concepts of mean, median and mode, not with these technical terms but with a layperson's understanding, to realise that the tax "reforms" and tax cuts do not apply to the average Australian.. And the reality of LOW and Middle Income Tax Offsets are no more than a gimmick that are given AND taken away.

00:33:11 David Skidmore: Homelessness has grown over the last ten years and shows no sign of slowing down. Like the US, we will end up with many people who may have a job but are homeless.

00:33:24 Stephen Dunn: We need a complete paradigm shift to the caring models of the Scandanavian countries. Higher taxation but a much more happy populace. Just making companies who earn in Australia pay the company tax would be a good start.

00:33:48 Anthony Horwood: Thank you for the comprehensive speech Michele. It highlight the increasing gap between the haves and the have nots in our society, and where our current federal government lay in relation to this and more broadly other social cohesion issues. We need change and we need it now.

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00:33:53 Rosie Ratcliff: Totally agree Stephen!

00:33:57 Stephen Dunn: A tax cut is a cost to the budget.

00:34:38 Robert McLean: Well said Stephen!

00:34:39 Anne Layton-Bennett: Totally agree Stephen

00:34:54 sheila pollard: Agree Stephen.

00:35:00 Keighley Williams: lets not even think about, getting the best processes around the world, finland best schooling, lets ignore that,

00:35:02 Keighley Williams: Which country is best for child education?

The publication's experts found out where the health and education systems are the best, where the environment is favourable and where it is safest to live with children.

...

Top 10 best countries to raise children.

Place CountryAssessment

1 Sweden99,81

2 Denmark 98,38

3 Norway95,95

4 Netherlands 95,56

00:35:20 Keighley Williams: yet we ignore this !!!

00:35:53 robert butterfield: Official unemployment figures are a lie. When I was made redundant I was not eligible for welfare benefits so, like many people, was not counted as unemployed.

00:36:43 Rob Calvert: Robert B underemployment is the issue for many too

00:36:51 Stephen Dunn: And it depends in which electorate you live on the FNC of NSW whether you get LNP support or not, regardless whether you lost everything in the floods. Caring government? BS!!!

00:37:17 robert butterfield: Very true Rob

00:37:17 Eddie OTTO: The public are deceived by budget allocation which are over extended future periods extending mostly beyond a current budget and NEVER get spent....

00:37:22 Nicholas Wright: Wages went into recession in Q1 of 2014. When capital goes into recession, it's all over the news, the sky is falling in - when households go into recession, no such attention.

00:38:03 Eileen Whitehead: The workers don't realise how powerful they are. This is why this government has passed legislation to criminalise strikes which is a worker's right. Greed is killing our country. We need a national strike!

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- 00:38:08 David Skidmore: Longer funding agreements for community services would help re: secure work.
- 00:38:19 Graeme Tychsen: "Personal responsibility" means you are on your own and "government is off your back" which means no society. People are pitched against one another, the helping hand is taboo. The opposite to egalitarianism;s helping hand. There is an indispensable role for the collective; people are tribal.
- 00:39:28 Eddie OTTO: And when the LNP "spend" money it is given to corporate private sector sponsors with open tender.
- 00:40:07 robert butterfield: I'm surprised the myths behind Neoliberalism haven't yet been made bankrupt.
- 00:40:16 Rosie Ratcliff: Fantastic, thanks Michele.
- 00:40:17 Gerry Biddle: Well said Michelle.
- 00:40:27 Andrew Allison: All good commentary!!
- 00:40:34 Stephen Dunn: Where's the revolution? France 1789, Russia 1917, China 1949. Push people down enough and watch out.
- 00:40:40 Graeme Tychsen: Robert, I am not. Thanks Michelle; laser sharp.
- 00:40:46 Anne Layton-Bennett: Excellent speech, thanks Michele
- 00:41:02 David Skidmore: The talk posed solutions which was quite positive.
- 00:41:37 Graeme Tychsen: Everyone knows prosperity is suffering as national income is not healthy, is held by too few people.
- 00:41:46 Eddie OTTO: Nicholas. The concept of real wage recession is an import metric which should be cultivated.
- 00:41:47 Karen Jones: Thank you Michelle, there were many many fantastic messages and facts in what you have presented. Will this speech script be accessible for us to use in conversations we have leading up to the election?
- 00:41:55 Mithrani Mahadeva: Thanks Michele ,Great Speech, 🍷
- 00:42:07 Lachlan McCall: My favourite-ever chart. Neoliberal economics is fundamentally flawed. Its assumptions are flawed, and as a result, the forecasts, predictions, and policy recommendations neoliberal economists push are deeply compromised.
- 00:42:23 Gerry Constantinou: The right to strike,we must do something about it to even the balance... Unfortunately we got rid of Howard but his detestable IR law lingers on
- 00:42:50 Keighley Williams: with you GC
- 00:43:14 Keighley Williams: confidence in govt is low.., lets do nothing..
- 00:43:17 David Skidmore: If my wages get cut, so do my expenses and therefore businesses miss out on my money.

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00:43:54 Keighley Williams: if you are earning over 200k, your sorted you will get 10k back, to keep to yourself brilliant !!

00:44:15 Stephen Dunn: Any pay rise to the lower income group is spent - supporting business. To the tops it is saved / invested resulting in no increase in spending at the shops

00:44:19 Rosemary Watson: Howard also initiated destruction of the Public Service and the wealth of expertise and experience of the Departmental Heads.

00:44:24 Keighley Williams: don't even think about communiy or all the services we need !!!!!

00:44:47 Gerry Biddle: The Trade Union needs to take on the definition of employment with the ILO. One is employed if one works only 1 hour per week which is a sham.

00:44:47 Graeme Tychsen: NeoLiberalism is simply doing away with the helping hand, for personal greed, individual greed, for maximum "freedom" for those who are so placed, speaks to fear, and assumes a world without misfortune when clearly that is nonsense, when the wealthy modern state is best placed to tackle this like the Scandinavians.

00:44:59 Michael Avis: Howard was the problem by freezing our hourly wages for 10 years.

00:45:36 Kevin Heys: Re Waqes... Bring back the Accord. beyond the mentality of the 1970s and the current bias of the or bosses and investment returns.

00:45:39 Rob Calvert: more importantly or infamously Howard politicised the public service, no longer "fearless" advice

00:45:40 Stephen Dunn: Privatisation = the current aged care system. Where were the most deaths in aged care. For profit sector!

00:45:59 Graeme Tychsen: Universal education should extend to at least the first post school qualification but ALP introduced HECS, (HEX) and the wonderful TAFE system....

00:46:05 Eileen Whitehead: It's called surplus value. But the workers aren't receiving any surplus from their input! Profits just get bigger.

00:46:22 David Skidmore: Given the disconnect between wages and housing costs, I'm surprised we don't see more tent cities of homeless people. Maybe we will if there are more 'natural' disasters.

00:46:37 Lachlan McCall: Hear hear Greg!

00:46:43 Wayne McMillan: Hi Wayne from Whalan here on Dharug land.

00:46:44 Graeme Tychsen: All people are valuable, but for the Scott Morrison's it rises with the size of the "bank account".

00:48:16 Jeannie Higgins: How can we take over the narrative for everyday Australians watching or reading Murdoch news and headlines with constant "fudging" ?

00:48:43 Keith Johnson: Michelle you started with thanks to the many frontline workers, can we expect a change to allow the right to withdraw labour as it seems the only way to change things?

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00:48:49      robert butterfield:      Australia is a tragedy when it has so much potential, so much talent and resources yet is driven by a Government into poverty and dystopia.

00:49:23      Rachel Hay:      A reminder that if you have questions for the panelists to post it in the 'Q & A' section.

00:49:29      Graeme Tychsen:      Scott Morrison's terrible view of what should be the social order, when he was "golly gosh and gee whiz" when with Mrs Morrison he presented to Elizabeth Windsor the horse book, such grovelling - well Elizabeth Windsor is above him but fortunately there are all those "below" him - go egalitarianism.

00:50:52      Graeme Tychsen:      Australia - extreme social insecurity. Great point. Michelle; which means for those who are casual there should be proper support.

00:51:06      Nigel Miles:      Governments, both federal and state, have kept wages low with their wage caps - 2.5% for a decade in NSW - so it's interesting that they predict increases above their own legislated caps. We know that the private sector follows the public sector on wage rises.

00:51:17      Gerry Constantinou:      Question YRAW why was that changed to Change the Rules? Your rights at Work was evidently very effective straight to the workers, your job your rights no interpretation needed ...Even at this late stage I believe YRAW can be run besides Secure Jobs new slogan

00:51:43      Eddie OTTO:      Casual employment move business risk to the worker. Not only should casual workers be compensated for annual, sick and long service leave, they should be compensated for the risk transferred. Only then will employers consider permanent positions.

00:52:03      Eileen Whitehead:      Let's hope Albanese has these problems of casual and gig workers in his sights and he wins the next election!

00:52:20      Bernadette McPhee:      apologies need to leave, will watch later

00:53:19      Graeme Tychsen:      And so much of the legislation for social support and workforce relations are breathtakingly needlessly complex, looks like you are doing something and you really can't get through the door cause you can't find it. Self evident on schooling and health, and there is no universal health system.

00:53:38      Kevin Heys:      Re Labour Market... bring back rights, reinvigoration and responsibility to the Labour Market beyond that of the technology and cost accountants screwing the workers. A little bit of Humanity in the Economy and in the workplace will go a long way.

00:54:27      Graeme Tychsen:      In Australia there is a need for a huge dose of humanity across the board.

00:54:33      Nicholas Wright:      Good to hear, I just hope that we as unionists can begin to incorporate realistic understandings of economics, guided by Modern Monetary Theory, into our strategy. We shouldn't fuel the narrative about 'tax payer money' and 'government debt'. It does us no favours in the long run.

00:55:32      David Skidmore:      Childcare costs have soared yet childcare workers are not exactly raking it in. Someone is making big profits.

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- 00:55:46      Graeme Tychsen:      Nicholas, absolutely spot on. Nothing is "short sighted" when you face ideologues.
- 00:56:23      Anthony Horwood:      Keep spreading the information among as many people as you can Jeannie, and keep having those discussions. For those that are interested in what you are talking about you can then have a more meaningful discussion about society needs.
- 00:56:59      Kevin Heys:      Child care in OZ is for profiteers as opposed to the educative, supportive and nurturing of the young. Once again it is the business models of marketeers playing out at the expense of primary purpose... care for kids and mums and the flexibility in the workforce.
- 00:57:01      Michael Aubrey:      👍
- 00:57:09      Lachlan McCall: The pandemic (and the JobKeeper rorts, and the sports rorts) have demonstrated: if the government wants something bad enough, it can afford it. If we decide we want a fair, zero-carbon economy, we can afford it.
- 00:58:04      Graeme Tychsen:      Coalition/ALP, Tweedle Dee/tweedled Dum, except ALP there is no chance of a Tony Abbott / Scott Morrison in the role of PM.
- 00:58:12      Rachel Hay:      If you have questions for the panelists please post them in the 'Q & A' section at the bottom of your screen.
- 00:59:08      Eileen Whitehead:      WHERE HAS THE AUSTRALIAN 'FAIR GO' GONE? IT'S GONE AT ABOUT THE SAME RATE AS OUR DEMOCRACY.
- 00:59:43      Graeme Tychsen:      What appears to be strong performance of the economy is simply coming off the pandemic hammering and the economy is far weaker.
- 00:59:58      Stephen Dunn: Fuel excise 44c/l. Where is the rest of the price? Profit margins. In my area fuel varies by upto 20c/l!
- 01:00:25      Kevin Heys:      Insecure work is based on the American model of keep the workers hungry and bosses or investors profiteering. We need to reawaken equity.
- 01:00:30      Tim Dymond:      'Productivity' has become the biggest cop out in bargaining. Most employers have no idea what it means outside of 'more work for less pay' or 'replace human workers with robots'. We still haven't worked out even how to measure productivity in services.
- 01:00:33      Graeme Tychsen:      Eileen, it died years ago; everyone is now a competitor.
- 01:01:10      Eileen Whitehead:      So true Graeme. The 'Me' generation.
- 01:01:42      Keith Johnson:      👍
- 01:01:59      Mithrani Mahadeva:      👍
- 01:02:29      Graeme Tychsen:      On the health of the economy Australia comes in the 80s having just leapt over Burkina Faso; we still suffer from the emptiness of Donald Horne's still apt point, "The Lucky Country", a really enduring in fact growing irony.
- 01:02:41      Mithrani Mahadeva:      Does the Money go Overseas?

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- 01:02:50 Stephen Dunn: My bottle of L&P rose from just over \$3 to over \$4.##. BIT MORTE THAN INFLATION!! Profiteering?
- 01:03:30 Kevin Heys: Money is leaking into housing prices and infrastructure overspends on roads and buildings and off shore to MN corporations.
- 01:04:08 Dan Nahum: Yes; economic rents
- 01:04:51 Graeme Tychsen: Dan, oh yes, economic rents are really healthy when the place is a social basket case.
- 01:05:24 Graeme Tychsen: Social basket case? gig economy part of today's "The Lucky Country".
- 01:05:40 Stephen Dunn: Earn it here, pay tax here! Maybe a turnover tax is needed!
- 01:08:41 Stephen Dunn: International agreement on transfer pricing needed.
- 01:08:42 Graeme Tychsen: Australian society is miles short of what should be happening to be egalitarian the basis of a health modern state, that is tribalism, the threshold of humankind;s existence always.
- 01:08:46 Cecily Cronin: Twenty plus year ago I attended a focus group meeting in Perth on the casualization of the female workforce. Of the 13 women around the table all (except me) seemed to be government employees receiving a good wage for attending the group. I was unemployed and paid my own way to get there. Empowered people have little capacity to reflect the views of the un=empowered. Then or now.
- 01:09:03 Graeme Tychsen: Underemployment....
- 01:09:52 Graeme Tychsen: Too many uncountered power hubs means no freedom and no democracy, both side shows here.
- 01:10:10 Graeme Tychsen: Greg, get real, but that was government on our backs...
- 01:10:53 asus2015: Subsidised child care, aged care, schools housing, paid parental leave etc create large corporations that are essentially oligopolies and larger profits to the subsidised entities who cut wages, increase prices..... PRINTING MONEY IS INFLATION it's the wind that inflates prices, sends manufacturing overseas and decimates an economy.
- 01:10:56 Graeme Tychsen: Greg, but if this normal practice we will have a generation of bludgers and leaners..
- 01:11:17 Bryan Kavanagh: Yes, Greg, thank goodness for Treasury input to Job Seeker?
- 01:11:44 Anne Heard: We, the purchasers, could try shopping foe essentials only for a bit. Profits will suffer....
- 01:11:57 Anne Heard: \*for
- 01:11:58 Nigel Miles: \$39 billion JobKeeper payments was given to profitable companies who refuse to pay it back. Louis Vuitton! Mercedes!

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- 01:12:11 Graeme Tychsen: As parliament house if lord of the flies I wonder how much of this let it rip attitude means hell for so many out of the house; come on Greg what is wrong with getting your rocks off on people as social policy.
- 01:12:24 David Skidmore: Exactly, Greg. Poverty is artificially constructed.
- 01:12:55 Graeme Tychsen: So true David. Utah counted its homeless and built roofs for them.
- 01:13:19 Graeme Tychsen: Sounds too egalitarian for this sad place.
- 01:14:39 Rosemary Watson: Cruelty is one of the hallmarks of LNP Government.
- 01:14:58 Graeme Tychsen: Here's to great livelihoods for all - sounds a bit egalitarian but Richard Denniss has said as much. Market forces are not a pancea. They need steering.
- 01:15:15 asus2015: Has anyone heard of savings.... yes running a business with no loans? many businesses pay incredible rents, the banks steal our savings, the government prints money constantly and prefers imports to local manufacturing.
- 01:15:18 Valmai Smith: thank you Michelle n Greg for highlighting Jobkeeper so true. people were plugged right back into poverty. When Jobkeeper was cut in half. This government plays with people lives.
- 01:16:06 Graeme Tychsen: Please bring back neighbourhood schools all of high standard and except for community religious ones no more private schools.
- 01:16:35 Rachel Hay: Thanks to all for joining us today and for participating in a fascinating discussion! For details about upcoming webinars and to book head to [https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar\\_series](https://nb.tai.org.au/webinar_series)
- At the bottom of the page you can view our previous webinars in full if you missed any – including this one when it is uploaded soon.
- Thanks again for joining us – and enjoy the rest of your day!
- 01:16:51 Kevin Heys: The workforce needs to have a strong TAFE to help work on and work with the evolving labor force , business and government and technology and environmental matter.
- 01:16:52 asus2015: TRAINING... our economy is 20% financial services that means 20% churns the savings of the
- 01:16:52 Richard Naylor: Thank you.
- 01:16:54 Rosie Ratcliff: Excellent webinar, thank you Michele, Greg and Ebony.
- 01:16:54 Graeme Tychsen: Go the regions..
- 01:17:04 Sarath Weerasinghe: Thank you
- 01:17:04 Valmai Smith: thank you 🍷

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01:17:05 Stephen Dunn: And pay teachers a wage consistent with their jobs. Were equivalent with NSW polities 30 yrs ago

01:17:05 Tony Simons: Thanks for a great forum

01:17:13 Valmai Smith: great forum

01:17:13 Richard Tuffin: Thanks Michelle / Greg and Ebony of course

01:17:25 Amy Boyle: Thank you!!

01:17:25 Anne Heard: come back soon!

01:17:29 Steve Baty: Thank you all - excellent presentation & discussion

01:17:30 Eileen Whitehead: Terrific! The LNP has to go!

01:17:33 Kevin Heys: Thanks to all for your great work ..

01:17:35 Gerry Constantinou: Thank you everyone

01:17:37 Jeannie Higgins: Thank you all!

01:17:39 Colin Handley: thank you Ebony

01:17:51 robert butterfield: Thanks everyone. Michele is brilliant

01:17:56 HEATHER KJOLLER: Thanks Michele and Greg - insightful and engaging!