

## Economics and Schools - The Future of Wellbeing

ABE is a member-based, not-for-profit association of economists and others working in the financial markets and related institutions. Our mission is to engage with the community, encourage and inform conversations, promote the study and practice of economics. Our view is that economics is everywhere and impacts most decisions of individuals, firms and governments (even if invisibly). It is absolutely essential that we develop the next generation of economists through schools and universities. We've been working over the last couple of years with the Reserve Bank and others to encourage high school students in their study of economics.

This is an invitation to our first schools-specific event. It will be informative; offering students an update on Australian economic conditions now and in the year ahead, aligned to the HSC curriculum and led by a senior Reserve Bank official. We'll introduce four (relatively) youthful economists for a panel session about economics in the real world and a discussion about schooling and career with a focus on how the study of economics has been critical to their professional success.

Finally, the inspirational Shade Zahrai - lawyer, dancer, enthuser, author, economist - will share her experiences of living a life of purpose, making choices and taking control of happiness.

Our event sponsors are Westpac and the Business School at the University of Technology, Sydney. The venue is easily accessible by public transport and a short walk from Railway Square, Central Station and the light rail. The event is presented at no charge.

The event is intended for students in years 10, 11 and 12. The event is open to teachers and students from all schools. Please register an expression of interest so that we can plan appropriately. Please let us know if you're interested to attend and how many of you are likely to come. **Please register your interest online [here](#).** We'll confirm registration in mid-April.

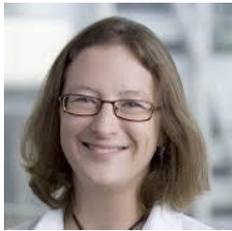
**Date:** Monday, 13 May 2019

**Time:** Register from 3:00 pm for 3:30 start. Concludes at 5:30 pm

**Venue:** Aerial Function Centre, Level 7, UTS Building 10, 235 Jones Street, Ultimo

### Program

- 3:30-3:40 Welcome and introduction  
Stephen Walters, Chair, Australian Business Economists; Chief Economist, NSW Treasury
- 3:40-4:10 Economics: Forecasts and your future  
Alex Heath, Head of Economic Analysis, Reserve Bank of Australia
- 4:10-4:50 Panel: Economics in practice  
Besa Deda, Chief Economist, St George Banking Group (Moderator)  
Elyse Morgan, Business & Finance Journalist, Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Alex Joiner, Chief Economist, IFM Investors  
Dena Jacobs, Associate Director, Deloitte Access Economics  
Emily Blythe, Associate, Westpac Treasury
- 4:50-5:20 Making happiness  
Shade Zahrai, Chief Positive Influencer, Influenco Group
- 5:20-5:30 Concluding remarks, Close



**Dr Alexandra Heath, Head of Economic Analysis, Reserve Bank of Australia**

Alexandra Heath is currently the Head of Economic Analysis Department at the Reserve Bank of Australia. She has also held senior management positions in the Economic Research, Domestic Markets and International Departments. She was seconded to the Bank for International Settlements in Basel Switzerland from 2005 to 2008 and had held a number of positions within Economic Group prior to this. She has worked on a variety of topic areas including macroeconomic forecasting, labour market dynamics, financial markets and global imbalances. Dr Heath holds a PhD and MSc in Economics from the

London School of Economics and a BEc (Hons) from the University of Sydney.



**Ms Besa Deda, Chief Economist, St George Banking Group**

Besa Deda is the Chief Economist of the St. George Banking Group, which includes St. George, Bank of Melbourne, BankSA and RAMS. Besa has been in this role since 2008. As the Bank's economic spokesperson, Besa is responsible for research on the economy and financial markets. She formulates views and forecasts on the outlook for the economy, interest rates and currencies and manages a team of economists. Besa give regular presentations and often appears in the media reporting on economic conditions. Prior to this role, Besa held Senior Strategist and Economist roles with the

Commonwealth Bank covering fixed income, foreign exchange, macroeconomics and equities. Besa was with the CBA for nearly 8 years and before that was an economist with the Colonial Group. Besa is the Secretary for the Australian Business Economists' Association, and has previously written a regular property column for The Australian newspaper and lectured for FINSIA (now known as Kaplan).



**Ms Elysse Morgan, Business & Finance, Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

Elysse Morgan is host of the ABC's leading business programs, including The Business on ABC television, Business PM on radio and regularly writes news and analysis for ABC online. Elysse has won awards and accolades for her interviewing and reporting in her roles at the ABC where she started as a cadet rural reporter. Elysse had stints in far flung regions including Port Pirie in South Australia, before hosting The Country Hour, where her interviews and stories contributed to bring down a state minister. Elysse used her specialist business and finance knowledge to move into the role of executive

producer of Business Today in Sydney, before taking over the ABC's national finance round, where she became a familiar voice on RN Breakfast, The World Today, PM and television news and reported for 7.30. In 2015 Elysse was appointed co-host of The Business, before taking over the role in 2017.



**Dr Alex Joiner, Chief Economics, IFM Investors**

Dr Alex Joiner is the Chief Economist at IFM Investors and also sits on its Investment Committee and Global Management Team. He is responsible for the firm's economic, financial market, policy and geopolitical analysis and forecasting and also represents IFM with domestic and global clients as well as with governments, central banks, financial institutions and corporates. He has two decades of professional experience and prior to joining IFM Investors, Alex was the Chief Economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch (Australian & New Zealand) after being a senior economist at ANZ Bank. He holds

a First Class honours degree in Economics and a PhD in Econometrics from Monash University. Alex is a committee member of Australian Business Economists and sits on the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment Macroeconomic Risks Advisory Group.



**Ms Dena Jacobs, Associate, Deloitte Access Economics**

Dena is an Associate Director at Deloitte Access Economics in Sydney. She has worked previously for NSW Treasury as a Principal Economist, the Bank of England as a Senior Economist and Private Secretary and at the Reserve Bank of Australia as a Senior Analyst. Her Bachelor of Economics (Hons) is from UTS and her Master of Economics is from UNSW.



**Ms Emily Blythe, Associate - Financial Markets, Westpac**

Emily is an Associate working in Westpac Treasury Global Funding. She is a graduate of the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Economics. Emily completed Westpac's Financial Markets and Treasury graduate program in 2018. The program involved rotations in foreign exchange sales, chief investment office (treasury) trading, credit trading and economics.



**Ms Shadé Zahrai, Chief Positive Influencer, Influenco Group**

Shadé Zahrai is an author, consultant, former lawyer, trainer, speaker, Future Leader Scholar (through the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation) and champion latin dancer who has been featured on TED. Shadé specialises in translating brain science research into simple, actionable strategies for performance and wellbeing. She is passionate about empowering women and minorities to challenge unconscious bias, drive inclusion and advance equality in the workplace and our communities. Her mission is to help make the world a better place - one happy person at a time. Shadé is a finalist for the 2019

Telstra Business Women's Awards in Victoria.