

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 (even if invisibly) of individuals, firms and governments. It is absolutely essential that we develop the next generation of economists through schools and universities.

This unique event is informative: it offers 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 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, economist, author, enthusiast - 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 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. Register your interest online [here](#).

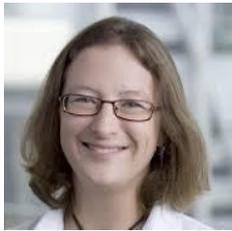
Date: Monday, 13 May 2019

Time: Register from 3:00 for 3:30 pm 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, ABE Chair and 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.



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).



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.



Alex Joiner, Chief Economics, IFM Investors

Dr Alex Joiner is Chief Economist at IFM Investors and has well over a decade of experience in the field across Australian, New Zealand and Asian economies, with a focus on financial markets, risk, investment and quantitative research. He is responsible for the firm's economic, financial market and policy analysis and forecasting. He was previously the chief economist for Bank of America Merrill Lynch (Australia), replacing Saul Eastlake. Prior to that, he held economic roles at ANZ and acted in a consultative role on numerous macro-economic models, including two years focused on Asian economies before working as a senior macro economist focused on the property sector. He completed undergraduate studies at LaTrobe and a PhD at Monash.



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.



Emily Blythe, Associate - Financial Markets, Westpac

Emily is an Associate working in Financial Markets at Westpac. She is a graduate of the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Economics.



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.