



THE ABE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE - BY ZOOM WEBINAR

COVID: Impacts on the economy and the labour market, monetary policy responses

TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2020 1:30 PM to 3:00PM AEDT

ABE presented an event for high school students in years 10, 11 and 12 featuring a senior Reserve Bank official speaking about current economic circumstances and four (relatively) youthful economists for a panel session about economics in the real world. The panel session included discussion about schooling and career with a focus on how the study of economics has been critical to career success. Westpac was our generous event sponsor.

A recording of the panel session is available at abe.org.au. We were not able to record and publish Ms Cassidy's remarks.

Program

- 1:30 Welcome and introduction
Stephen Walters, ABE Chair and Chief Economist, NSW Treasury
- 1:35 COVID and the economy: Local and global
Natasha Cassidy, A/g Deputy Head, Economic Analysis, Reserve Bank of Australia
- 2:00 Panel: Economics in an emergency
Besa Deda, Chief Economist, St George Banking Group (Moderator)
Alex Joiner, Chief Economist, IFM Investors
Elysse Morgan, Business & Finance Journalist, Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Emily Blythe, Associate - Global Funding Group, Group Treasury, Westpac
Megan Paybody, Manager - Economics, Regulation & Policy Group, Ernst & Young
- 2:30 Panel discussion with audience
- 2:55 Concluding remarks, Close

This conference was generously sponsored by



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Natasha Cassidy

Natasha Cassidy is currently acting as a Deputy Head of the Economic Analysis Department of the Reserve Bank of Australia. Before this, Natasha served in a number of other roles in the Economic Analysis Department, most recently heading the team that is responsible for the forecasting and analysis of prices, wages and the labour market, and before that working as an economist covering areas such as business investment, trade, commodity prices, housing and financial conditions. In addition, she has worked in the Reserve Bank's Domestic Markets and International Departments. Natasha holds a Bachelor of Economics (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.



Emily Blythe, Associate - Financial Markets, Westpac

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



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.



Megan Paybody, Manager - Economics, Regulation and Policy - EY

Megan is a Manager in EY's Economics, Regulation and Policy Group. Megan joined EY after attending university in Ireland and has been working in EY for six years. Starting her role in EY Ireland, she then transferred to the Melbourne office in 2016. Megan has worked across a range of clients and has focused in recent years on the sports and events sector, assessing the economic impact of major events and infrastructure. Megan is a graduate of Trinity College in Dublin, with a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Economics.