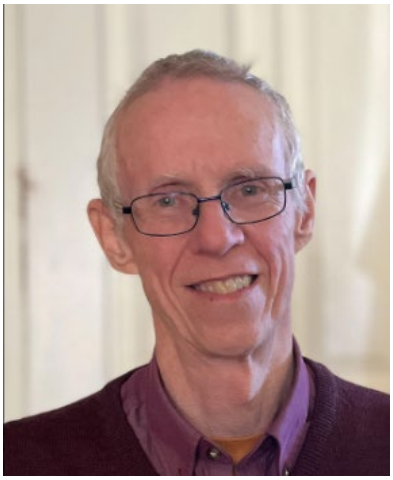
Mr Ralph Lattimore



Ralph Lattimore has worked on a wide variety of economic and social policy issues over the past 40 years. He worked in the Industry Department (and for the White Paper - Working Nation), the Bureau of Industry Economics and, most recently, the Productivity Commission. In his role as Assistant Commissioner and later, Executive Manager and Chief Economist of the Productivity Commission, he led a wide variety of government-commissioned projects. These included inquiries into private health insurance, the Job Network, consumer policy, the science system, telecommunications competition policy, various industry program evaluations, gambling policy, workplace relations, the development of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, public infrastructure, the design of a paid parental leave scheme, public transport pricing and the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development. He was one of several senior staff who led the 2017 and 2023 Five-year Productivity Reviews. He has been involved in modelling aspects of Australia's income retirement system, the design of Australia's migration policy and analysis of Australia's healthcare system. In addition, he has been involved in various investigations into breaches of competitive neutrality policy (a role undertaken by the Commission).

In his roles at the Productivity Commission, he has also undertaken a variety of research projects. This included research into fertility, labour force participation, productivity, the experiences of men not in work, business exits, the effects of an ageing Australia, wage decoupling and analysis of various policies that assist Australian industry (as part of the Commission's annual Trade and Assistance Review).

His earlier work at the Bureau of Industry Economics was also diverse, but with a greater orientation to industry policy and program evaluation. He has a BA (Hons) in history from the ANU, a Graduate Diploma in Economics and Master of Economics (ANU) and a DPhil (Oxford). His dissertation topic was the macroeconometrics of the consumption function.