



**Australian
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**Department of Industry
Innovation, Science, Research
and Tertiary Education**

An initiative of the Australian Government

Setting the wage floor: The evolution and future of the Minimum Wage in Australia

Wednesday 29 May 2013 5.30 - 6.30pm followed by light refreshments

Rob Bray PSM Research Fellow, Research School of Economics, ANU
Chaired by **Dr Jenny Gordon** Principal Adviser Research, Productivity Commission

Acton Theatre JG Crawford Bldng 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU, Canberra



The minimum wage in Australia has a long and colourful history.

Whilst now at a similar real value as at the peak it reached some decades ago, the role of the minimum wage has fundamentally changed. It has shifted from a wage set to meet the needs of a family to an individual wage. This transition has been complemented by strong increases in government support for families, especially those with low earnings.

Looking to the future, what should the balance be between wages provided by employers and financial support from government? How does the future of the minimum wage relate to a 'high participation' agenda and the productivity potential of low paid workers? At this lecture, Rob Bray will launch his publication *Reflections on the evolution of the minimum wage in Australia – options for the future* and set out his ideas for advancing public policy on this important debate.

Rob Bray came to the ANU after a long career in the Australian Public Service as a policy analyst and researcher. In 2010 he was awarded the Public Service Medal in recognition of his work on poverty and hardship. His current research at the Research School of Economics includes the measurement of wellbeing and the role of the welfare system and its inter-relationship with participation.

This lecture is the third in a series hosted by the HC Coombs Policy Forum to debate the workforce participation challenges that Australia faces now and in the future. The previous topics were:

- > Welfare reforms and the new world of older workers, by Professor Bob Gregory, Emeritus Professor, ANU
- > Welfare reform under austerity: What might Australia learn from the UK's Universal Credit and Work Program, by Professor Dan Finn, University of Portsmouth

Presented by

HC Coombs Policy Forum
**Crawford School of
Public Policy**

**ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific**

Registration required

Registration crawford.anu.edu.au/events/current
This lecture is free and open to the public

Enquiries E events.coombs.forum@anu.edu.au T 02 6125 7067

Further information crawford.anu.edu.au/hc-coombs

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