An assessment of social insurance schemes is timely in both the international and Australian contexts. Some countries are making efforts to roll back some social insurance schemes, often encountering spirited resistance, while others are introducing new ones. In Australia, both Medicare and the NDIS are widely supported while some voices can be heard in support, for example, of long-term care, unemployment and other types of social insurance. Debates about the future equity and sustainability of health and welfare systems are necessarily incomplete without a serious discussion about the design, impacts and sustainability of social insurance schemes.

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia’s 2015 Symposium—Social Insurance for the 21st Century? Exploring pathways for a sustainable, equitable and effective welfare system promises to provide an informed and lively discussion on aspects of national and international social insurance schemes. Past and contemporary experience and current priorities will be assessed, and advice from Australian and leading international experts in the field will provide Australia’s researchers and policy makers with valuable insights for ongoing reform of Australia’s welfare system.
CONVENORS & PRESENTERS

Professor Allan Borowski FASSA, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University, Melbourne, and Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University Melbourne.

Emeritus Professor Bettina Cass AO FASSA, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

CHAIRS

Professor Rosalind Croucher, President, Australian Law Reform Commission, Sydney.

Mr Michael Borowick, Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions, Melbourne.

Emeritus Professor Murray Goot FASSA, Macquarie University, Sydney.

Professor Jenny Lewis, Public Policy and Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2013-16), The University of Melbourne, Parkville.

Professor Adam Graycar FASSA, School of Social and Policy Studies, Flinders University, Adelaide.

PRESENTERS

Professor Deborah Brennan FASSA, Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Professor Peter Whiteford, Director, Social Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra.

Associate Professor Siobhan Austen, Head, Economics and Property and Co-Director of the Women in Social and Economic Research (WISER), Curtin University, Perth.

Associate Professor James Gillespie, Deputy Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Director, Master of Health Policy, University of Sydney, Sydney.

Associate Professor Karen Fisher, Disability Research Program, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Ms Jacqueline Phillip, Director of Policy, Australian Council of Social Service, Sydney.

The Hon John Della Bosca, National Campaign Director, Every Australian Counts, Canberra.

Professor Eric Kingson, Professor, School of Social Work, Syracuse University, New York, USA. (via video conference)

Ms Serena Wilson PSM, Deputy Secretary, Social Security, Department of Social Services, Canberra.

Dr Zhiming Cheng, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for the Health Economy, Macquarie University, Sydney.

Professor Peter Saunders FASSA, Research Chair in Social Policy, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

SPEAKERS

Professor Daniel Beland, Canada Research Chair in Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Professor Sara Arber, Co-Director, Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender, University of Surrey, United Kingdom.
Andrew Leigh MP is the Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Federal Member for Fraser in the ACT. Prior to being elected in 2010, Andrew was a professor of economics at the Australian National University. Andrew holds a PhD in public policy from Harvard, having graduated from the University of Sydney with first class honours in Law and Arts. He has previously worked as a lawyer and as a principal adviser to the Australian Treasury. He was elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, 2011, the only current parliamentarian to be a fellow of one of the four national Learned Academies. In 2011 he received the ‘Young Economist Award’, a prize given every two years by the Economics Society of Australia to the best Australian economist under 40. His books include *Disconnected* (2010), *Battlers and Billionaires* (2013), *The Economics of Just About Everything* (2014) and *The Luck of Politics* (2015).

Andrew is the father of three sons — Sebastian, Theodore and Zachary, and lives with his wife Gweneth in the Canberra suburb of Hackett. He has been a member of the Australian Labor Party since 1991.

**THE LUCK OF POLITICS**

When US president Theodore Roosevelt was shot in the chest in 1912, he was saved by the luck of having a folded fifty-page speech in his breast pocket. Two years later, World War I was sparked after Franz Ferdinand’s motorcade took a wrong turn onto a narrow street, putting his car into the path of an assassin. John Howard and Gough Whitlam narrowly missed out being elected to state seats — a ‘misfortune’ that left them able to run for safer federal seats.

In this talk, Andrew Leigh will argue that recognising the importance of luck can profoundly alter the way in which all of us think about politics, and about life. Just as a good health system guards against the bad luck of sickness, and a good unemployment system protects against the bad luck of job loss, so too we need a politics that recognises the role of chance. Luck should make us less inclined to revere the successful and revile the unsuccessful. Putting luck into politics may even let the unlucky have a second chance.
## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

**8:00 am** **REGISTRATION**

**8:45 am** **PRESIDENT’S WELCOME AND CO-CONVENER’S INTRODUCTION**

*Professor Deborah Terry AO* FASSA, President, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Canberra

**CO-CONVENER’S INTRODUCTION**

*Emeritus Professor Bettina Cass AO* FASSA, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney

**9.00 am** **PANEL ONE** Key Issues in Reinventing the Welfare State: Social Insurance

**PANEL CHAIR:** *Professor Rosalind Croucher*, President, Australian Law Reform Commission, Sydney

*Professor Allan Borowski* FASSA, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University, Melbourne, and Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University, Melbourne

What is Social Insurance and Why Consider it in Welfare State Reinvention?

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

*Professor Daniel Beland*, Canada Research Chair in Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

The Fiscal Side of Social Insurance in Historical and Comparative Perspective

*Professor Sara Arber*, Co-Director, Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

The Gendered Effects of Social Insurance schemes: A Case Study of Ageing and Pensions

Panel Discussion and Q & A

**10.15 am** **MORNING TEA**

**10.40 am** **PANEL TWO** Social Insurance over the Life Course

**PANEL CHAIR:** *Mr Michael Borowick*, Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions, Melbourne

*Professor Deborah Brennan* FASSA, Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), University of New South Wales, Sydney

Equity vs Insurance: The Topsy-Turvy World of Australian Parental Leave

*Professor Peter Whiteford*, Director, Social Policy Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra

Assessing Alternative Approaches to Unemployment Insurance and Unemployment Assistance: A Comparative Perspective

*Associate Professor Siobhan Austen*, Head, Economics and Property and Co-Director of the Women in Social and Economic Research (WISER), Curtin University, Perth

Can Australia Achieve an Equitable Retirement Income System? What Can we Learn from International Models of Social Insurance?

Panel discussion and Q & A

**12.00 pm** **LUNCH**
12.50 pm **PANEL THREE  Health, Disability and Care**

**PANEL CHAIR:** Emeritus Professor Murray Goot FASSA, Macquarie University, Sydney

**Associate Professor James Gillespie**, Deputy Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Director, Master of Health Policy, University of Sydney, Sydney

*The End of Universal Health Coverage? The Principle of Universalism and the Politics of Retrenchment*

**Associate Professor Karen Fisher**, Disability Research Program, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney

*Enabling Active Citizenship? Disability Services Insurance in Australia and Some Lessons from International Experience*

**Emeritus Professor Bettina Cass AO** FASSA, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney

*‘Long-Term Care Social Insurance Internationally: From the Margins to the Australian Policy Agenda?*

Panel discussion and Q & A

2.00 pm **AFTERNOON TEA**

2.25 pm **PANEL FOUR  Social Insurance and Advocacy**

**PANEL CHAIR:** Professor Jenny Lewis, Public Policy and Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2013-16), The University of Melbourne, University of Melbourne, Parkville

**Ms Jacqueline Phillips**, Director of Policy, Australian Council of Social Service, Sydney

*Policy Advocacy in the Australian Context*

**The Hon John Della Bosca**, National Campaign Director, Every Australian Counts, Canberra

*Advocacy for the NDIS*

**Professor Eric Kingson**, School of Social Work, Syracuse University, New York, USA (via video conference)

*Social Insurance Advocacy in the United States*

Panel discussion and Q & A

3.25 pm **PANEL FIVE  The Future of Social Insurance in Australia and Internationally**

**PANEL CHAIR:** Professor Adam Graycar FASSA, School of Social and Policy Studies, Flinders University, Adelaide

**Ms Serena Wilson PSM**, Deputy Secretary, Social Security, Department of Social Services, Canberra

**Dr Zhiming Cheng**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for the Health Economy, Macquarie University, Sydney

**Professor Peter Saunders** FASSA, Research Chair in Social Policy, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney

Panel discussion and Q & A

4.30 pm **CONCLUSION & THANKS**

**Professor Glenn Withers AO** FASSA, President-elect, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Canberra
# Program of Annual Events

## Day 1  Monday, 16 November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Launch: Australia’s Comparative Advantage, launched by Professor John Hewson AM</td>
<td>Monday 16 Nov at 5.30pm</td>
<td>Common Room, University House, Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation by New Fellows</td>
<td>Monday 16 Nov at 7.00pm</td>
<td>Common Room, University House, Canberra</td>
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## Day 2  Tuesday, 17 November 2015

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Symposium</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 Nov at 8.45am</td>
<td>Shine Dome, Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>President’s Drinks</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 Nov at 4.30pm</td>
<td>Shine Dome, Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Launch: The Social Sciences in the Asian Century</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 Nov at 5.00pm</td>
<td>Shine Dome, Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Cunningham Lecture by the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, FASSA <em>The Luck of Politics</em></td>
<td>Tuesday 17 Nov at 5.30pm</td>
<td>Shine Dome, Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellows Dinner, recognition of Jubilee Fellows and induction of New Fellows</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 Nov at 7.45pm (Pre-drinks at 7.15pm)</td>
<td>Great Hall, University House, Canberra</td>
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## Day 3  Wednesday, 18 November 2015

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Fellows Induction Breakfast</td>
<td>Wednesday 18 Nov at 7.45am</td>
<td>Fellows’ Bar, University House, Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel Discussions</td>
<td>Wednesday 18 Nov at 9.00am</td>
<td>Panel A - Seminar Room, University House, Canberra Panel B- Scarth Room, University House, Canberra Panel C - Ian Wark Theatre, Shine Dome, Canberra Panel D - Becker Room, Shine Dome, Canberra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</td>
<td>Wednesday 18 Nov at 10.45am</td>
<td>Shine Dome, Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch following AGM</td>
<td>Wednesday 18 Nov at 1.00pm</td>
<td>Shine Dome, Canberra</td>
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ACADEMY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER ONLINE:
https://www.assa.edu.au/registration/2015/

FOR ENQUIRIES AND GROUP BOOKINGS:
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