PARLIAMENT HOUSE OF AUSTRALIA
THEATRES
THURSDAY 21 MAY

BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED FROM 7.00AM, WITH THE EVENT COMMENCING AT 7.30AM

BREAKFAST TOPIC AND ARRANGEMENTS

The 2014 Federal Budget was one of the most controversial budgets in recent memory. The Coalition’s next budget on May 12 will again aim to reduce the deficit but this time with less offence to voters with concerns of unfairness. The Coalition Government will attempt to reduce the deficit by lowering spending rather than increasing taxes. How fair and an effective this strategy will prove to be will begin to unfold once the 2015 Budget is released.

The Budget Breakfast will be led by a range of esteemed speakers who will engage with the audience in a discussion of the Federal Budget. The topics will focus principally on the success or otherwise of the budget in achieving the Coalition’s election pledge to ‘get the budget under control’, how appropriate such a pledge is given the outlook for the domestic and global economy, the political impacts and the impact on households from the major changes to taxation and government benefits.

The breakfast will be attended by business, government, industry, media and academics. After the formal presentations a question time will be opened up to the audience.

SPEAKER BIO’S AND EXPECTED TOPIC

THE HON. ANDREW LEIGH MP – Andrew is the Shadow Assistant Treasurer; Federal member for Fraser and a former Professor of Economics at the ANU. Andrew is the author of Battlers and Billionaires and The Economics of Just About Everything and is a regular commentator on all matters economic, social and political in Australia. Andrew will discuss the opposition’s response to the budget and provide insights into the implications of the latest budget for the economy and the broader societal impacts.

SENATOR THE HON ARTHUR SINODINOS AO – Arthur is a Liberal Party Senator for New South Wales and was the Assistant Treasurer in the Abbott Ministry. Prior to politics Arthur had a distinguished career as a senior public servant and investment banker. Arthur was also Prime Minister John Howard’s Chief of Staff between 1997 and 2006.

MICHELLE GRATTAN AO – Michelle is recognised as one of Australia’s most influential political journalists. Michelle has over 40 years experience in journalism and is currently a professorial fellow at the University of Canberra and chief political correspondent at The Conversation. Michelle will cover the political dimensions of this most important budget of the Coalition Government.

SAUL ESLAKE – Saul has diverse background with positions in the Commonwealth Treasury, Economic Advisor to Jeff Kennett, Chief Economist at ANZ, head of the productivity program at Grattan Institute and most recently returned to the Chief Economist ranks at Bank of America – Merrill Lynch. Saul has a very strong media presence and is one of the go-to people for economic analysis and policy commentary in Australia.

BEN PHILLIPS – Ben is a Principal Research Fellow at NATSEM at the Institute of Governance and Policy Analysis. Ben has over 18 years experience as an economist and researcher in the public, private and university sectors. Ben is responsible for NATSEM’s model of the Australian Tax and Transfer system – STINMOD and will provide detailed modelling of the distributional impacts of the major budget measures on Australian families. Ben’s analysis will detail which families will be impacted most strongly from the budget.