



# TAX FORUM

4-5 October 2011

## STATEMENT OF REFORM PRIORITIES

### PARTICIPANT NAME, ORGANISATION AND POSITION

Harry Clarke	La Trobe University – Professor, School of Economics and Finance
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Graeme Cooper	University of Sydney – Professor, Sydney Law School
Julian Disney	University of New South Wales – Director and Professor, Social Justice Project, Faculty of Law
Richard Eccleston	University of Tasmania – Associate Professor, School of Government
Chris Evans	University of New South Wales – Professor, Australian School of Taxation and Business Law
John Freebairn	University of Melbourne – Professor, Department of Economics
Paul Gerrans	University of Western Australia – Professor, Business School
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John Piggott	University of New South Wales – Australian Professorial Fellow and UNSW Scientia Professor, ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research
Dale Pinto	Curtin University – Professor, Curtin Business School
Susan Richardson	Flinders University – Principal Research Fellow, National Institute of Labour Studies
Kerrie Sadiq	University of Queensland – Associate Professor, TC Beirne School of Law
Greg Smith	Australian Catholic University
Miranda Stewart	University of Melbourne – Associate Professor, Melbourne Law School
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**STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES****JOINT STATEMENT TO TAX FORUM**

on

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO AFTS(2009) RECOMMENDATION 134****TAX FORUM RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commonwealth Government should respond positively to Recommendation 134 of the AFTS Review (2009) by committing funds to the development of an independent multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional tax research centre, The Australian Centre for Tax Research. Commonwealth funding should comprise \$2.5 million each year for 10 years; such funding to be accompanied by State and Territory Governments and the private sector both contributing \$0.25 million per annum over 10 years.

The *Final Report* of the Review into *Australia's Future Tax System* (2009, Part 2, Volume 2, p 722-724) made the following recommendation:

**Recommendation 134:** The government should support one or more institutions to undertake independent policy research relevant to the Australian tax and transfer system.

In particular, the *Final Report* proposed the establishment of:

.....an academic institution or a partnership between institutions that could draw funding from public and private sources to undertake tax research and evaluation....  
Similar bodies operate in Australia, in other areas of research.

The signatories to this *Tax Forum Recommendation* all agree that the Australian community would benefit significantly from the development of an independent tax research centre based within one or more academic institutions. The overriding objective of such a centre should be tax research excellence, theoretical and applied, achieved through collaborative multi-disciplinary, multi-sector, and multi-government tax research projects. The Centre will focus both on improved public understanding of tax as well as research which draws upon world's best theory and practice. The Centre's research will be both accessible to the public as well as designed to promote the discussion, dissemination and practical application of findings through publications in all academic, professional and technical media and through organization of, and engagement in, national and international tax workshops, symposia and conferences.