

***More Than Luck* puts the policy back into a policy-free election**

More Than Luck: Ideas Australia needs now - a publication from the Centre for Policy Development (CPD)

Edited by Mark Davis & Miriam Lyons

<http://morethanluck.cpd.org.au>

More than Luck: Ideas Australia needs now provides policy ideas from 21 leading Australian policy thinkers and researchers and ‘the vision thing’ missing in action from the 2010 election.

“Politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum. Fear dominates elections when there isn’t a positive vision compelling enough to crowd it out, and neither major party has been telling a positive story this election year.”

– Mark Davis & Miriam Lyons, Editors, *More Than Luck*

Edited by Mark Davis (CPD fellow and author of *Land of Plenty*) and CPD Executive Director Miriam Lyons, **More Than Luck** is both a collection of ideas for citizens who want real change and a to-do list for politicians looking to base public policies on the kind of progressive future Australia needs.

More than Luck illustrates what is needed to share this country’s good luck amongst all Australians – now and in the future. The authors describe how to pull good policy ideas back out of the too-hard basket by facing up to Australia's weaknesses and making the most of our strengths.

More than Luck demonstrates how to do more than point fingers and complain. This book outlines the nature of the problems Australia faces and charts the task of starting to map a viable path to the future we want. This is a book with ambitious, progressive ideas for the next federal government.

“It’s time for Australia to show that we are not just a lucky country but a country that knows how to make our luck last.”

– Mark Davis & Miriam Lyons, Editors, *More Than Luck*

To read *More Than Luck* the e-book visit: <http://morethanluck.cpd.org.au> (PDF download also available).

All CPD authors are available for commentary, opinion pieces and interviews as the campaign unfolds. More than Luck extracts can be made available for republication. See below for author bios and quotes

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More Than Luck: Ideas Australia needs now – Snapshot of ideas

All CPD Authors are available to provide commentary to put the policy back into this policy-free election

Mark Davis is a well-known cultural and political commentator and **Miriam Lyons** is the Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Development.

We can freely acknowledge the tremendous struggle ahead of us, and yet choose to remain decidedly optimistic, and to work from a fundamental belief in the possibilities of the future. When we do that, we liberate ourselves from some of the burden of despair and powerlessness we've all been saddled with at the dawn of the 21st Century.

Jennifer Doggett is a health policy analyst who believes the Government's approach to healthcare reform has notable gaps. In her ***Getting health policy into shape*** chapter, Jennifer argues for a sharper focus on addressing the issues which matter most to consumers: out-of-pocket expenses, co-payments and unequal access to health-care providers.

'Trying to get our current health system to provide longer-term and more complex care is like using a typewriter to twitter.'

Chris Bonnor is the President of the NSW Secondary Principals Council. In ***How to end social apartheid in schools***, he challenges the market principles dominating current schools funding and argues that the ability for schools to pick and choose students is creating a social and academic apartheid.

'The flipside of consumer choice – where schools either passively or actively choose desirable students – is now a big feature framework of schools.'

Eva Cox AO is the former Program Director, Social Inquiry at the University of Technology Sydney, and a strong advocate for women's issues. In ***Strengthening our social fabric***, she considers rethinking tax & income policy practices to make our society more civil.

Kate Gauthier, a well known refugee policy lobbyist with the Refugee Council of Australia, argues that the Labor Government has set itself up for failure by upholding the view that asylum seeking is a national security threat. In ***It takes a bleeding heart...*** she says that to gain community support for humane policies they're going to have to humanise their rhetoric too.

'To stop asylum seeking, the Australian system would have to be worse than the places that people are fleeing - worse than extra-judicial killings, torture and persecution.'

Phil Lynch is Executive Director of the Human Rights Law Resource Centre. In *Human rights at the cross-roads*, Phil argues that Australia's recent asylum freeze brings our human rights credentials into doubt. He calls for bold leadership from the next Australian government in the form of a Human Rights Act.

'The basis upon which a Human Rights Act was rejected - that it would be contentious and divisive - was an abdication of leadership. That conclusion failed the test of political leadership, vision and resolve.'

Elizabeth Hill and **Barbara Pocock** co-convene the Australian Work & Family Policy Roundtable. In *Work and care*, they suggest a range of targeted policy measures to help parents, part-time workers, women and carers get a fairer and more equitable deal in Australia's work/family regime.

Ben Eltham, a writer and musician, and **Marcus Westbury**, a broadcaster and festival director, argue Australia's fragmented cultural policy needs to move beyond its 'funding paradigm'. In *Cultural policy in Australia* they call for the abolition of the Australia Council and creation of a new cultural agency, with a contemporary brief.

'Reliance on the Australia Council as the primary agency for cultural policy is inherently unsustainable'

Fiona Armstrong is a journalist with a Masters in Politics and Public Policy. Her chapter *Shifting from hope to fear* calls for a new national narrative to allow us to feel confident in our solutions to combat climate change, and positive about our country's future.

'The renewable energy revolution is not only possible – it is happening already. Global employment in renewable energy is outstripping direct employment in the oil and gas industries'

Peter Newman, a member of the Board of Infrastructure Australia, believes the 'big Australia' and housing affordability debates have focused our collective consciousness on the need to improve the liveability of our cities. In *Sustainable cities*, he calls on the next Federal government to establish a clear and active role in delivering better infrastructure, urban planning, and sustainable cities.

Ian McAuley is an economist who lectures in public sector finance at the University of Canberra. In *Living off our resources*, Ian says true economics deals in the use of scarce resources - and our environmental capital is fast-becoming our scarcest resource of all.

'We have come to see our prosperity as a by-product of economic good fortune, and have come to believe that attending to environmental concerns is a luxury we can afford only if we put the economy first...The reality is that we are living off our (and the planet's) capital.'

Ray Ison is a Professor, Systems for Sustainability at Monash University established international reputation in Systems scholarship. In *Governance that works*, he considers why public service reform needs systems thinking

Ian Dunlop, the Chairman of Safe Climate Australia, identifies Australia's great strategic error: protecting our carbon-intensive industries in the misguided expectation that global markets will continue to demand coal in large volumes over the long-term. They won't - and this colossal error of judgment, he says in ***A full world***, will only be compounded unless we undertake a root-and-branch restructure of our environmental and energy policies today.

'A decade hence... it is likely the incremental demand for our high carbon products will evaporate. Australia at that point will be left with a large inventory of stranded assets, minimal investment in low carbon alternative energy and little resilience to weather the impact of both climate change and peak oil.'

Marian Sawer, Kathy MacDermott and Norm Kelly are experts in public sector governance. Their ***Strengthening democracy*** chapter calls for the end of union and corporate political donations; more stringent oversight of tax-payer funded ad campaigns; and smarter and more flexible electoral enrolment processes for the 21st Century.

'In these days of electronic rolls, automatic enrolment largely removes any need to 'close' the rolls before an election. There is no reason why new enrolments and updates can't continue up until election day.'

John Quiggin, an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow in Economics and Political Science, thinks Australia's resilience in the face of the GFC was part good management, part luck. ***Surviving the next crisis*** calls for a careful examination of vulnerabilities in our financial system – if only to see 'where we went right'.

'An important element of any reform should be a tax on financial transactions, low enough that it does not interfere with ordinary borrowing and lending, but high enough to ensure the massive short-term speculation that still dominates financial markets ends once and for all.'

Ben Spies-Butcher, a lecturer in economic and political sociology, and **Adam Stebbing**, a PhD student in Sociology at Macquarie University, say that, while both sides of politics claim to care deeply about cost-of-living issues, both support policies which increase the expense of essential items like housing and childcare. In ***Getting public value for public money***, Ben and Adam urge our leaders to adopt more direct funding models to maximise the services delivered for each government dollar spent.

'Current policy gives parents more money to spend on childcare without sufficiently increasing supply of places. This tends to push up the price of childcare and reduce value for money.'

Current CPD Sustainable Economy Fellow & PhD student with the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the UTS Sydney, **Tani Shaw** explores alternative ways to measure Australia's progress in ***What does 'progress' mean to you?***

See <http://morethanluck.cpd.org.au> for more CPD thinkers with agenda setting ideas to inject into the 2010 election campaign and the next term of government.