

You are cordially invited to attend a jointly sponsored
lunch-time Business Links Seminar entitled:

Tax and Transfer Tensions: Designing Direct Tax Structures

Direct tax structures are regularly revised and public debates over reforms are typically heated. This is not surprising when it is realized that tax changes usually involve losers as well as gainers. Also, taxes affect the behaviour of individuals and families in ways that are not easy to predict, but which impose severe constraints on the ability of governments to achieve their objectives. For example, attempts to redistribute income using progressive taxes are restricted by adverse incentive effects on both low- and high-income groups. Attempts to help one group of individuals often have unintended consequences on other groups. Views about the role of a tax and transfer system also vary substantially but in debates the basic value judgements which influence policy recommendations are seldom made explicit. In this (non-technical) lecture Professor John Creedy will attempt to clarify the main tensions involved in tax planning and to explain why consensus is unlikely to ever be achieved.



Professor John Creedy

Professor John Creedy holds the Truby Williams Chair of Economics at the University of Melbourne. Professor Creedy obtained a B.Sc (Economics with Statistics) from the University of Bristol in 1970 and a BPhil (Economics) from Oxford University in 1972. From 1978 to 1986 he was Professor of Economics at Durham University and Head of Department between 1980 and 1983. In 1986 he was appointed Professor of Economics at Pennsylvania State University and in December 1987 he was appointed to his present position at the University of Melbourne. He spent November 2001 - February 2004 at the New Zealand Treasury. Professor Creedy was elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (Australia) in 1989.

Professor Creedy's research interests are in income distribution, public economics, labour economics, and history of economic analysis. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of a number of international journals.

Thursday, 25 June 2009 from 12.30 – 2.00 pm
Lecture Theatre 2, Rutherford House, 23 Lambton Quay, Wellington
Victoria University of Wellington

**The seminar will be preceded by light refreshments on the Mezzanine Floor of Rutherford House
from 12.00 – 12.30 pm.**

This is a free seminar. For catering purposes kindly RSVP (acceptances only) by Monday, 22 June 2009 to vanessa.borg@vuw.ac.nz, telephone 04 463 5550 or to kathy.mckenzie@vuw.ac.nz, telephone 04 463 5562.