

CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLICY ANALYSIS AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

A feature that distinguishes the Melbourne Institute from teaching departments in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce is its deep involvement in applied research and knowledge transfer activities.

In a very real sense, virtually all of our contracted research activities are examples of knowledge transfer: work that is informed by our research and which responds to a contemporary policy issue. This is manifestly the case in respect of research commissioned by the government or its agencies. It is also true in respect to many commercially sponsored surveys such as those relating to economic conditions and to ARC Linkage Grants, which represent a partnership between the Melbourne Institute and another party to pool expertise — usually to explore a policy-relevant issue. In addition, the Melbourne Institute conducts a number of public events, or in-house seminars, intended to engage the community and/or policy makers about issues of contemporary policy focus.

Since these matters are so pervasive throughout the work of the Melbourne Institute it would be very repetitive to attempt a comprehensive listing of them in this section. The following is therefore best seen as a highly selective but illustrative list.

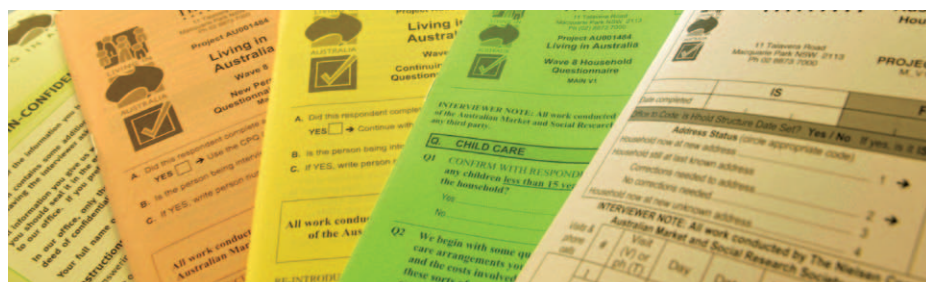
- The Melbourne Institute organised the fifth Economic and Social Outlook Conference, 'New Agenda for Prosperity'. The event was the first broad-ranging policy conference after the election of the new government (details on page 18).
- The Health Economics research program commenced the survey 'Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life (MABEL)'. Wave 1 of the survey was successfully administered to 10,000 doctors (details on page 12).

- The Melbourne Institute organised quarterly Economics Forums in Melbourne and Canberra (details on page 17).
- Release 6 of the HILDA Survey dataset was delivered to 400 individual users, and the third statistical report, *Families, Incomes and Jobs*, was published — reporting findings from the HILDA Survey (details on page 8).
- The Labour Economics and Social Policy research program commenced work on a new research contract, for the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), on vocational education and training (details on page 5).
- Several professional workshops were initiated including 'Education and Skill Mismatches in the Labour Market 2008' (details on page 5).
- In association with Asialink and PricewaterhouseCoopers, a comprehensive report was produced on Australia's engagement with Asia, called the *PricewaterhouseCoopers Melbourne Institute Asialink Index* (details on page 14).
- The Melbourne Institute Director was appointed Chair of an Expert Reference Group, established by the Minister for Employment Participation. Associate Professor Beth Webster was appointed to the advisory panel for the Review of the Australian Automotive Industry, and to the Commonwealth's Advisory Council on Intellectual Property.
- Nine projects were completed under the Social Policy Research Services (SPRS) contract, currently managed by DEEWR. The annual SPRS workshop on work conducted under the contract was presented by Melbourne Institute staff to policy advisers in Canberra (details on page 5).



The Australian Economic Review

- The Melbourne Institute continued to produce the *Australian Economic Review*, Australia's leading academic journal specialising in policy-relevant applied economic research (details on page 30).
- The Melbourne Institute published a range of economic surveys. It also began, after a break of a year or so, to publish short-term economic forecasts, which are contained in the *Monthly Bulletin of Economic Trends* (details on page 30).
- A report for AusAID, 'Monitoring the ASEAN Community', was produced in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat.
- In addition to a large number of reports which included views of Melbourne Institute staff on a range of topics, staff also contributed 301 opinion pieces or other articles which were published in newspapers, and spoke at 45 non-academic conferences in 2008.



HILDA surveys