

THE LABOUR HISTORY SOCIETY ADELAIDE INVITES YOU
TO A TALK BY

Rhonda Sharp

on Sunday 19th June at 2.00pm

Are we there yet? The evolution of superannuation policy in Australia

Superannuation policy has a long and contested history for its contribution to fair and adequate retirement income strategy in Australia. Commonwealth Government efforts to encourage superannuation savings dates back to the introduction of its Income Tax Assessment Act (1915 ITAA). Provisions in the 1915 Act marked the beginning of a policy of generous concessional tax treatment of superannuation designed to maintain into retirement the lifestyles of higher paid men.

This direction was largely maintained until the Hawke-Keating government announced in its 1989 'Better Incomes' retirement income policy changes that sought to systematically increase the coverage of superannuation as a component of an integrated '3 pillar' approach to retirement incomes. Key was the 1991 introduction of a compulsory employer contribution to superannuation of employees – the Superannuation Guarantee Charge starting at 3%.

The 2006 Howard -Costello budget took tax concessionality of superannuation to new heights with the exemption of (most) superannuation disbursements from income taxation. By 2017 the loss of federal government revenue from superannuation tax concessions is estimated to be the same as the cost of the age pension (49 billion for the year).

Rhonda Sharp (PH.D, AM) is an adjunct professor at the Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia. She was formerly a Research Chair and Professor of Economics at the Institute. She was co-author (with Ray Broomhill) of one of the earliest books on women and Australian economic policies - *Shortchanged: Women and Economic Policies* (1988) which included a chapter on superannuation. She went on to complete her doctoral thesis on women and superannuation policy under the Hawke-Keating government in the late 1990s. She continues to research in the area.

Rhonda's work on superannuation is part of a broader research and policy commitment to which she has devoted 30 years of her life working internationally to develop and promote an economic approach inclusive of fairness and gender equality.

*Meeting to be held at the Box Factory, 59 Regent Street South, Adelaide.
All welcome. Afternoon tea provided.*

*For further information please contact David Faber on 8410 9796 or
Greg Stevens on 8379 7000.*