



liberty
& society

Free your mind



Student Outreach Programme

AN PROGRAMME FOR THE LEADERS
OF TOMORROW





The Centre for Independent Studies is the leading independent public policy research and educational institute in Australia and New Zealand.

Founded in 1976, its continuing strength lies in its unique blend of absolute independence, a capacity to lead public debate and influence policy through quality research and scholarship, and a commitment to an intellectual framework that promotes the principles of a free, open and democratic society.

Our Mission:

To defend & promote all that is good in society. This means creating a strong civil society in which liberty is paramount, families & education are valued, economic freedom & property rights are assured & individual responsibility & initiative are encouraged.

Our Goals:

- *Individual liberty and choice, including freedom of association, religion, speech and the right to property.*
- *An economy based on free markets*
- *Democratic government under the rule of law*
- *An autonomous and free civil society*

Funding and Independence:

The funds for the Centre's work are raised annually from individuals, businesses, foundations and other interested organisations. Pivotal to our independence is the fact that CIS does not accept government funding nor undertake commissioned research. CIS is politically non-partisan and exists as one of the few truly independent voices in public policy development.

Unique Contribution of CIS – How We Achieve Our Mission

The CIS believes in positively affecting change.

The Centre for Independent Studies does this by the careful and deliberate analysis of Australia's social, foreign and economic policies, seeking to discover the fundamental causes that adversely affect the way we live our lives.

Through lively debate and discussion CIS analysts pursue the development of nationally applicable strategies and policy recommendations which respond and adapt to the diversity and multiplicity of challenges that continue to impact on the individual, the family unit, our local communities and our nation.



Liberty & Society Student Outreach Programme

What is the Liberty and Society Student Outreach Programme?

Liberty and Society, is a unique live-in conference and alumni programme for undergraduates, postgraduates and recent graduates over the age of 18 who live in Australia, New Zealand or the South Pacific. The goal of the *Liberty and Society* conferences is to create an intellectual environment where ideas and opinions about what makes a free society can be discussed, argued and learnt.

The conferences consider the world from a 'classical liberal' perspective. This means exploring:

- **How much individual freedom is possible?**
- **How much government do we need?**
- **What are the practical implications of reducing government?**
- **What are the necessary foundations to build a free, open society?**

These issues and other topics are brought into focus with presentations by lecturers, question and answer sessions, group discussions and informal chats.

There are Student Outreach Programme consists of:

Introductory Liberty and Society Conferences
-are open to all undergraduates, postgraduates and recent graduates over the age of 18 who have an interest in liberal ideas.

Advanced Liberty and Society - open to people who have attended the Introductory conference, the Advanced conference has a slightly more practical bent with practitioners in government and business being involved.

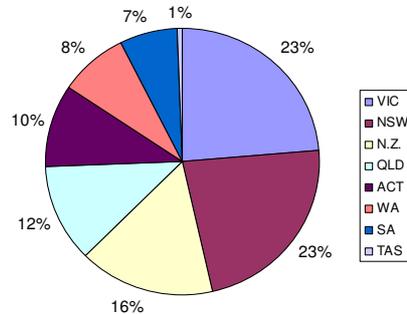
Alumni Programme - open to people who have attended the L&S conferences.



Liberty and Society Quick Facts and Figures

Programme started: 1996
Number of courses run: 28 (2 per year plus 4 Advanced conferences held 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008)
Number of participants: 681 students (490 maintain regular contact)

Breakdown of participants by location:



What are the objectives of the Liberty and Society Student Outreach Programme?

- To develop the thinking of talented, productive young Australians and New Zealanders who are keen to support the ideas of individual choice, democracy and freedom.
- To engage students in the free flow of ideas and critical discussions across disciplines and vocations. *Liberty and Society* conferences providing an intellectual experience increasingly rare in Australian universities.
- To better equip young people who are interested in exploring the concepts of personal liberty, free markets, the rule of law, and limited government.
- To build a network of bright, motivated young people a number of whom will become the future leaders of Australia and New Zealand.

Eligibility to Attend and Selection Criteria

The conferences are open to all undergraduates, recent graduates and those studying higher degrees over the age of 18. The conference is not available to students in high school. Participants come from Australasia and they can be studying any subject. It is not a prerequisite to have a great deal of knowledge about classical liberalism. We are interested in people who are inquisitive about society and how it works.

Selection is made after reviewing:

- Curriculum Vitae
- University results
- A sample of the students' writing
- Career aspirations
- Information regarding contact they have had with classical liberal ideas
- Information regarding any community involvement they may have
- References

No single criterion is all-important. In the final selection procedure we ensure that there will be a good mix of backgrounds. The maximum number of students attending is 30. This allows all students to meet and get to know each other and also gives everyone an opportunity to participate and voice an opinion.

Some Lecturers and Guest Speakers who have Participated:

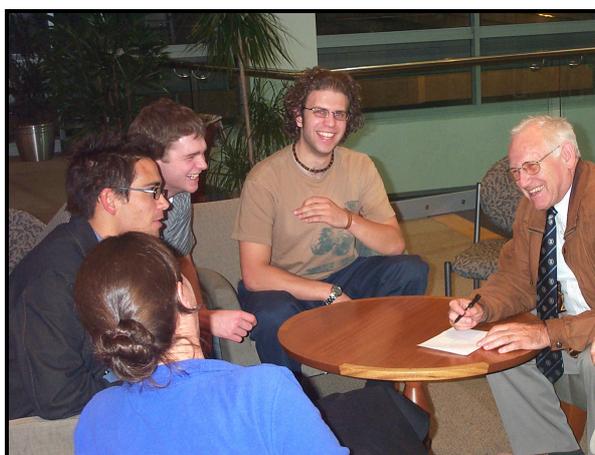
Hon. Tony Abbott	Federal Opposition Leader
Professor Geoff Brennan	Australian National University
Mr Gary Banks	Productivity Commission
Mr Michael Duffy	Columnist & media presenter
Professor Peter Dodd	Macquarie University
The Hon Nick Greiner	Former NSW Premier
Dr Mark Harrison	Harrison Consulting
Dr David Hart	Liberty Fund Inc
Mr Paul Houlihan	First IR Pty Ltd
Professor Wolfgang Kasper	Emeritus UNSW
Mr Paul Kelly	The Australian
Professor Stephen King	University of Melbourne
Warren Mundine	Former ALP National President
Cassandra Wilkinson	Author and Political Advisor
Dr Stephen Kirchner	L&S Graduate, UTS and CIS
Dr Jonathon Crowe	L&S Graduate and UQ
Dr Nicholas Southwood	L&S Graduate and ANU

Hon. Ruth Richardson	Ruth Richardson (NZ) Ltd
Professor Peter Saunders	Centre for Independent Studies (CIS)
Dr Jeremy Shearmur	Australian National University
Professor Geoffrey de Q Walker	
Mr Gary Sturgess	Serco
Mr Terry McCrann	News Limited
Dr Greg Melliush	University of Wollongong
Dr David Morrison	University of Queensland
Dr Jason Potts	University of Queensland
Professor Suri Ratnapala	University of Queensland
Professor Chandran Kukathas	London School of Economics
Mr Mark Latham	Former leader of the Labor Party
Professor Razeen Sally	London School of Economics
Professor Warwick McKibbin	Australian National University
Dr Oliver Marc Hartwich	L&S Graduate, CIS
Dr Darryn Jensen	L&S Graduate and UQ

Measuring the Value of the L&S Programme

The overall value of this programme is being demonstrated by our alumni. These young Australia and New Zealanders now work in important positions and they see it as part of their role to advocate the case for a freer society. We believe the conferences and on going contact the CIS has had a long term positive influence on a number of committed young people.

The benefit of this programme is best expressed in the words of Dr Peter Dodd, former Dean and Director of the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM), "Liberty and Society Graduates are those on their way to decision—making positions within Australia and the world."



Our Alumni

- **Scott Ryan** is a **Senator in the VIC government**.
- **Kelly O'Dwyer** is the **Federal member for Higgins in VIC**.
- **Michael Keenan** is the **Federal member for Stirling in WA and Federal Shadow Minister for Justice and Customs**.
- **James Hooke, Alan Anderson, Chris Berg, Annabelle Day, Shaun Davies** and a number of others are **either working for major Australian papers or are regular contributors**.
- **Bryan Sinclair** is a director of **Sinclair Thomas** a political consulting company.
- **Hassan Saeed** was the **Attorney General of the Maldives** from 2003-2007 and will be a 2013 candidate for the President of Maldives.
- **Alex Robson, Darryn Jensen, Hilary Fisher, Stephen Kirchner, Elise Arconi, Cornelia Koch, Nicholas Southwood and Jonathon Crowe** teach at universities such as **NSW, ANU, University of Queensland and University of Wollongong**.
- **Cameron Hepburn, Kateena O'Gorman** and **Phil Killicoat** are **Rhodes Scholars**. Cameron is now working on Environmental Economics at Oxford University and Phil is with McKinsey.
- A number of L&S alumni are working their way up the ladder in **business and law firms**.
- **John Roskam** is Executive Director of the **Institute of Public Affairs**.
- **Jason Briant, Julie Novak and Chris Berg** are Research Fellows for the **IPA**.
- **John Humphreys, Oliver Hartwich, Elise Parnam and Stephen Kirchner** have worked or are working for **The Centre for Independent Studies**
- **John Gardner** is the **Liberal Member for Morialta in the SA Parliament**,
- **Michael O'Brien**, **Victorian Shadow Minister for Infrastructure**
- **Joshua Frydenberg** has been **preselected for the blue-ribbon Liberal seat of Kooyong**.
- In New Zealand **Simon Bridges** is the **National Party Member for Tauranga**

If asked to sum up Liberty and Society what would you say?

"I would tell a friend....

To apply for the conference is absolutely necessary, to be selected for the conference is a privilege, to learn from the conference is a pleasure. "

PR, Aug 08

"It challenges you to not just accept the way things are but to think about the way things could be."

Kendal McCarthy, August 2008

Programme Descriptions

Introductory Student Conference

- *Liberty and Society* Introductory conferences are run twice a year over a weekend from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. We select a maximum of 30 university students or graduates under the age of 30 and invite 4 full-time lecturers selected from academia and the business world to present lectures. The lecturers live in and are involved with the students throughout the whole weekend.
- The conference runs an intense and full programme. We tackle four important areas: Political Thought, Law, Economics and Social Policy.
- In addition to the lectures there are formal and informal group discussions on a variety of topics. These conversations continue late into the night and start again at breakfast.
- We select high quality students. We look for university students who are high academic achievers, are involved in their community and extra curricula university activities, come from a variety of political persuasion and have an open and inquiring mind.
- We aim to have students from many disciplines attending, as the opportunities at university for students to discuss ideas and issues with students from another field are very limited.
- Student scholarships are a critical element of the programme. The CIS believes the conference should be available to all students with no discrimination due to economic circumstances. Therefore we subsidise most of the costs of the seminar including travel if necessary.

Advanced Conference

- This programme has developed at the instigation of the *L&S* alumni who are now working. Many are very keen to get more practical advice and have discussions about how to apply the principles integral to maintaining and improving a liberal democracy within the constraints of the working world.
- This conference incorporates lectures, group discussions, presentation of student papers and more time for informal communication. It offers practical advice for dealing with government and bureaucracies, it looks at how language is used to persuade and capture public opinion and it also considers ways change can be achieved.
- The Advanced conference is a unique opportunity for young people to consolidate their thinking and grapple with the practical application of liberal thinking. The group who take this course are committed to exploring ideas and taking an active role in their workplace or community. We offer the opportunity for the attendees to write a paper to be presented and discussed. 4 papers are selected and critiqued by the group.
- As most of the attendees are no longer students, they pay their own travel costs. As most are in fact poorer than when they were at university (renting, running a car, buying work clothes) the other costs of the weekend are covered by the CIS.

“An intellectually stimulating weekend which proved that Uni students/young adults’ interests are more diverse than the perception given by the media and popular culture. It was refreshing to be around such an inquiring group of people.”

WA, Aug 08

“The conference was certainly the most challenging and stimulating academic situation I’ve been in.”

Richard Higgins, Aug 08

INTERESTED TO KNOW MORE?

For more information please contact:

Jenny Lindsay
Student Co-ordinator
Liberty and Society
02 9438 4377
jlindsay@cis.org.au
