



Report on Inaugural **Freedom Factory** Event

July 13, 2009

Host Institute and Mannkal Partner: Curtin University of Technology



95 Delegates



Dr. Steven Kates



"The Panel"



Concluding Dinner

Creating the Tools for the Next Generation

*"...so successful that it was unanimously resolved that **Freedom Factory** becomes an annual event!"*

Nearly one hundred participants (65 scholars from all Western Australian universities and 30 "veteran" business and professional people) enjoyed an afternoon and evening of stimulating discussion, question and answer, and exchange of views on contemporary Australian economic issues.

A similar free-flowing format will be followed for next year's event.

By popular request we present the following summaries and links to the full presentations from the wide range of speakers, brought together for this year's event.

"I often wonder where the economists of the world were when the Global Financial Crisis hit. They appeared to be absent at the time and that's why we were infected with populist political solutions rather than sound economic solutions."

From Welcoming Comments, Ron Manners Chairman of Mannkal Foundation

1. “Keynesian economics: How to Ruin Your Economy in One Easy Lesson”

Dr Steven Kates, Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, Finance and Marketing, RMIT University

2. “The Strange Birth (and Death) of NeoLiberalism”

Dr William Coleman, Reader in Economics in the School of Economics, The Australian National University

3. “Commercial Society: Opportunities and Problems from Adam Smith”

Dr Jeremy Shearmur, Reader in Philosophy in the School of Humanities, The Australian National University

4. “Overview of Mannkal Foundation’s Role”

John Corser, Director, Mannkal

5. “Think-tanks in a WA and Australian Context”

Andrew Pickford, former think-tank researcher and administrator and Mannkal Fellow

6. “Business and the Policy Debate: Education As A Case Study”

Nathan Taylor, Economics Policy Manager, Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA

7. “Issues and Agendas in the WA media “

Mark Pownall, Editor at Large, *WA Business News*

8. “Putting ideas into practice and prospects for the future” (no link available)

Dr Mike Nahan MLA, Member for Riverton

9. Question and Answer Sessions (no link available)

Chaired by Melissa Rasmussen, Education Co-ordinator, Mannkal and John Hyde, Director, Mannkal

10. Full biographies of speakers and organisers

11. Background Papers from Pre-Conference Pack

- The Dangerous Return to Keynesian Economics
- In Defence of Tax Havens
- Financial Crisis Explained in Simply Language

**Register your interest for the 2010 Mannkal
Freedom Factory (around mid 2010)**