MCKELL INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

ABOUT THE MCKELL INSTITUTE

The McKell Institute is an independent, not-for-profit, public policy institute dedicated to developing practical policy ideas and contributing to public debate.

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CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Hon. Dr Craig Emerson

As former Prime Minister, Paul Keating, famously observed: "When you change the government, you change the country."

For the McKell Institute, the change of government at the 2022 federal election represented an opportunity to pursue new progressive, national policy proposals.

It started when the Albanese government adopted childcare proposals presented in a McKell report "Why Reform of the Child Care Subsidy Would Strengthen Australia's Economy."

The federal government's Same Job Same Pay policy was announced following the release of the McKell Institute's "Wage Cutting Strategies in the Mining Industry" and its overall wages policy recognised the structural problems identified in "Stuck in Neutral: The Policy Architecture Driving Slow Wage Growth in Australia."

The McKell Institute's report, "Proposals to Increase the Rollout of Community Batteries," was adopted as a component of Labor's climate change policy. So, too, was "Trading Up: Free TAFE," a policy for fee-free TAFE courses in identified areas of skill shortages.

These are the sorts of signature policies that Prime Minister Albanese foreshadowed as Opposition Leader at the beginning of the previous parliamentary term.

The Victorian election was another policy opportunity this year. The McKell Institute's report "Addressing Infrastructure Inequality: A Path to Equality for Melbourne's Outer Suburbs" advocated new investment in transport, health and education infrastructure.

Our Queensland branch has thrived under the leadership of new Executive Director, Sarah Mawhinney, who has renewed the focus on state policy in Queensland.

Next, the election in NSW in March 2023 represents the contest of ideas at its best. Labor leader Chris Minns and Liberal Minister Robert Stokes addressed the McKell Institute in Western Sydney on the future of transport and cities.

The McKell Institute's proposals to replace stamp duty on property transfers with land tax, to improve education, and to provide affordable access to housing, have informed policies on both sides of politics and will feature prominently in the 2023 election campaign.

On behalf of the Institute, we thank all the researchers and fellows who contributed throughout the year. Effective policy starts with rigorous research.

And thank you to the McKell Institute team in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide who have worked tirelessly to bring ideas to life.

Finally, thank you to all the McKell Institute supporters. Our links to academics, the union movement, business, the media, and civil society are our strengths.

CEO STATEMENT

Michael Buckland

As Australia emerges from years of COVID-19 disruption, it faces intense economic pressures from rising inflation and interest rates, real wage declines and capacity constraints.

These are the immediate issues and will require urgent responses through 2023. But while much of the attention will be short-term, the solutions require more fundamental reform.

For us at the McKell Institute, we seek to understand the truth behind these contemporary challenges and find long-term solutions.

The tight labour market has been exacerbated by a lack of migration. Yet the fundamental cause is the collapse in apprenticeships and the damage to the universities needed to train educators and health workers during COVID-19. We took on these issues in 2022 with "Working, Learning" and "Trading Up."

Our failure to support female workforce participation has been telling. Women begin to decline as a proportion of the workforce when having children, but the gap grows to its greatest at 45 years of age. Early childhood education is the first step but supporting women in the workforce requires ongoing social and economic reform. We expose these issues in "Women in Work: A Story of Exclusion."

Economic growth is vital to support our quality of life and prosperity. In our report, "Addressing Infrastructure Inequality" we seek greater government involvement in creating opportunities to invest.

These efforts to create economic growth are only possible if working people share in the rewards. This is why McKell took on "Wage Cutting Strategies in the Mining Industry" and "Stuck in Neutral: The Policy Architecture Driving Slow Wage Growth."

Productivity is the main driver of prosperity, but we haven't developed a sophisticated understanding

of productivity in the care economy. Four-fifths of new jobs are in the services sector. The only way to improve productivity is with education and training. Yet our education outcomes are declining as found in "Setting the Standard: Addressing Educational Outcomes in Australia." Properly funding education is an economic necessity.

With a new Government in Canberra there are new opportunities to pursue change that will address these challenges and more.

The McKell Institute is committed to providing the federal government with robust research designed to drive economic growth underpinned by our deeply held commitment to social justice and the dignity of work.

We cannot do this without our supporters. On behalf of McKell, our team and offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide, thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE MCKELL INSTITUTE QUEENSLAND

Sarah Mawhinney

Despite the promise of a post covid world in 2022 with an abundance of vaccines, the removal of restrictions and the opening up of freedoms, the long tail of the pandemic saw the emergence of trying economic conditions made this year no less difficult than the previous two for many Queenslanders.

These challenges are evident in the significant skills shortage facing many industries, housing affordability pricing families out of the market and the increasing concerns regarding wages failing to keep pace with the rising cost of living.

In May the country changed, electing a Labor Government for only the fourth time since the second world war. With a new government came a significant shift in a variety of policy positions and immediate action to address some of the challenges, no more evident that the Jobs and Skills summit held in the first 100 days.

The change is also evident in the way in which the Albanese Government sought to engage with experts and seek a diversity of input as they navigate the first six months in office.

The task before the new Government is significant and will require deft policy solutions to navigate the way forward.

In 2022 we welcomed new members and continue to be the leading conduit for policy discussion between the corporate and union sectors representing tech, law, resources, energy, banking and finance, property, advocacy, resources, education, retail and health.

September saw the McKell Institute lead a group of members to New Zealand for a political delegation. The visit was a thoroughly engaging experience for participants that included meetings with the New Zealand Productivity Commission, the Director of the Helen Clark Foundation, New Zealand Union leaders and the Secretary of the New Zealand Transport department and culminated with a boardroom lunch with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, the Hon. Grant Robertson.

The role that the McKell Insitute plays in the development of research and facilitation of discission is unique in Queensland. Our research works to help inform and shift the national conversation on important areas of reform.

This year saw McKell QLD release research looking at Women in Work ahead of the newly elected Federal Government's Jobs and Skills Summit looking at the cohort of older women excluded from the workforce and ways to increase participation. We also released an interim report that found the incidence of violence on Public Transport had failed to reduce following a 2017 Government review.

At Mckell we drive the debate through our research and provide unique engagement with thought leaders and decision makers through our boardroom series to have facilitate conversations about the policy challenges that are emerging.

With a full schedule of events and research in 2023 we are looking forward to continuing in that role in the coming year.

CHAIR, THE MCKELL INSTITUTE VICTORIA

Kelvyn Lavelle

McKell Victoria continues to build a unique place in the Victorian public policy landscape. With the change of federal Government and the re-election of Victorian Labor, progressive policy ideas are very much on the agenda and McKell Victoria is well positioned to contribute to future discussions.

Infrastructure has been at the heart of many of Victoria's policy debates in 2022.

McKell's *"Bridge Over Troubled Waters"* highlighted that the Government's infrastructure spend was the largest contributor to economic activity in the state during Covid. It provided the economy with a platform from which to bounce back.

And yet, as the Victorian economy recovered through 2022, the disproportionate impact Covid had on the living standards of casualised and gig economy workers continued to reverberate, particularly in Melbourne's outer suburbs.

McKell Victoria considered the infrastructure investments that will help our outer suburbs. *"Addressing Infrastructure Inequality: A path to equality for Melbourne's outer suburbs"*, provided policy makers with clear opportunities to address access to transport infrastructure. In *"Funding the Infrastructure of Tomorrow"*, McKell highlighted the opportunity to include superannuation funds and other forms of private capital in delivering infrastructure - an important contribution in a climate of rising interest rates and budget constraint.

McKell Victoria turned its focus to the health sector in *"Calling for Help"*, an analysis of Lifeline data. The report highlighted the long-tail mental health trauma associated with Covid and the disproportionate impact on Victoria. We also looked at non-Covid related health services in *"Burns Care Victoria"*, a comprehensive review of specialist services for burns patients that recommended the establishment of a specialist Burns Centre.

We were particularly proud to work with the Victorian Trades Hall Council's Young Worker Centre; publishing *"Working, learning: Better Supporting Victorian Apprentices on the Job"*. This report shone a light on the exploitation of vulnerable young people in the workplace. More than any other piece of work completed in 2022, this report struck a nerve. It led to an immediate response by the Victorian Government.

I want to acknowledge the enormous contribution of our outgoing Executive Director, Ryan Batchelor. Ryan has been a wonderful leader and his contribution to the McKell Institute sets a high benchmark for the person who follows him.

On behalf of the McKell Victoria Advisory Board, I also want to thank our many, many supporters.

Our focus on achieving practical outcomes, facilitated by research and debate, is a rare opportunity to influence public policy for the better. It is an opportunity afforded us by the continued support of members, colleagues, and the generous engagement of policy makers.

Key Events 2022

FEBRUARY

Webinar on **The Future of Work**, featuring Minister for Industrial Relations Tony Burke; Executive Director at The Parenthood Georgie Dent; and ELMO Software CEO Danny Lessem.
HOSTED BY ELMO SOFTWARE

MARCH

Webinar on **Essential Surgery: Healthcare During COVID** and Beyond, featuring Australian Medical Association President Dr Omar Khorshid; NSW Royal College of Australasian Surgeons Chair A/Prof. Payal Mukherjee; Catholic Health Australia CEO Pat Garcia; and Johnson & Johnson Managing Director Sue Martin.
HOSTED BY J OHNSON & JOHNSON

Launch of McKell report, ***Funding the Infrastructure of Tomorrow***, featuring NSW Minister for Planning Rob Stokes and NSW Opposition Leader Chris Minns.
HOSTED IN COLLABORATION WITH PLENARY AND BUSINESS WESTERN SYDNEY

Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services Stephen Jones spoke to our members in Victoria on the super debate during the election and beyond.
HOSTED BY MLC LIFE INSURANCE

APRIL

Federal Budget Analysis webinar featuring the Minister for Finance, Senator Katy Gallagher.
HOSTED IN COLLABORATION WITH PER CAPITA, CHIFLEY RESEARCH CENTRE AND JOHN CURTIN RESEARCH CENTRE

Director-General at the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet Rachel Hunter PSM joined us to provide an update on the whole of government economic recovery strategy.
HOSTED BY MAURICE BLACKBURN

NSW Shadow Minister for Health Ryan Park addressed our members on managing New South Wales' health challenges as we emerge from the pandemic.
HOSTED BY MEDICINES AUSTRALIA

NSW Shadow Treasurer and Minister for the Gig Economy Daniel Mookhey spoke to us on the state's economic outlook.
HOSTED BY LENDLEASE

Webinar on **Race in the Workplace**, focusing on how we can talk about trade agreements, migrant labour and wages in a way that builds solidarity with migrant communities and working people of colour.
HOSTED IN COLLABORATION WITH UNIONSWA AND AUSTRALIAN FABIANS.

MAY

Policy forum on **Healthcare Beyond the Pandemic: Where does Victoria head next?** featuring Kirsten Davidson, EMR Lead Nurse Educator at the Royal Children's Hospital; Angela Jackson, Lead Economist at Impact Economics; Roderick McRae, President of AMA Victoria; and Brett Newstead, Director for Zebra Technologies.
HOSTED BY ZEBRA TECHNOLOGIES

Author Troy Bramston joined our public events series to discuss his latest book, *Bob Hawke: Demons and Destiny*.

Queensland Treasurer and Minister for Investment Cameron Dick addressed our members in a roundtable discussion on economic recovery.
HOSTED BY SUNCORP

JUNE

ALP National Assistant Secretary Jen Light featured in our members'-only post-election briefing series across Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Meredith Burgmann and Nadia Wheatley joined us to launch their book, **Radicals: Remembering the Sixties**, featuring an address from First Nations icon Dr Gary Foley.

Pharmaceuticals Benefits Advisory Committee Chair Professor Andrew Wilson addressed our health members.
HOSTED BY PFIZER

NSW Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully addressed our members on planning for the growth of NSW.
HOSTED BY STOCKLAND

JULY

RBA Governor Philip Lowe provided us with an update on Australia's economic outlook.
HOSTED BY ALLENS

Report launch of ***It's Broken: Workers' Compensation in New South Wales since 2012***, featuring NSW Shadow Treasurer and Minister for the Gig Economy Daniel and Assistant Secretary for Unions NSW Thomas Costa.
HOSTED BY UNIONS NSW AND THE INJURED WORKERS SUPPORT NETWORK

AUGUST

Chair of Tyro and Xero David Thodey AO spoke to us about the role of technology and innovation in driving Australia's growth, and the importance of a strong public service.
HOSTED BY ELMO SOFTWARE

QLD Attorney-General and Minister for Women and Prevention of Domestic Violence Shannon Fentiman joined us to discuss progress towards a gender-equal Queensland.
HOSTED BY AGINIC

SEPTEMBER

NSW Secretary for Health Susan Pearce provided us with an update on NSW Health's strategy in managing COVID going forward.
HOSTED BY ORGANON

Report launch of ***The Cost of Extreme Weather***, outlining the financial consequences of climate change as extreme weather events worsen.
HOSTED BY THE INSURANCE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

The McKell Institute hosted an **international fellowship to New Zealand**, where we met with thought leaders and policy strategists to discuss shared challenges and opportunities across technology, health, housing, transport and the economy. We met with the Acting Prime Minister, **Grant Robertson**; Chair of the Productivity Commission, **Dr Ganesh Nana**; CEO of the Waka Kotahi Transport Agency, **Nicole Rosie**; Executive Director of the Helen Clark Foundation, **Kathy Errington**; and Secretary of the NZ Council of **Trade Unions, Melissa Ansell-Bridges**.

Meta Vice President Andy O'Connell joined us in a discussion on content governance, the future of information, and building emerging technologies in a responsible manner.
HOSTED BY META

OCTOBER

The **Victorian Minister for Housing, Regulatory Reform and Government Services, and Assistant Treasurer, Danny Pearson**, addressed our members on the need for public housing expansion and how Victoria is tackling demand challenges.
HOSTED BY TELSTRA

The **Chair of the ACCC** Gina Cass-Gottlieb joined us to address our members on competition in the infrastructure and transport industries.
HOSTED BY MLC LIFE INSURANCE

The **Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas** delivered a keynote on wages, jobs creation and labour exploitation in a policy forum to our members.
HOSTED BY PWC

QTC Chief Executive Philip Noble provided our members with an insiders' view on managing Queensland's borrowing program.
HOSTED BY ALLENS

Post Budget Analysis webinar featuring the Chair of the House Economics Committee, Daniel Mulino.
HOSTED IN COLLABORATION WITH PER CAPITA, CHIFLEY RESEARCH CENTRE AND JOHN CURTIN RESEARCH CENTRE

Victorian Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Mary-Ann Thomas joined us to brief our members on Victoria's state health outlook.
HOSTED BY PLENARY

NOVEMBER

Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services Stephen Jones addressed our members in New South Wales post-election, providing an update on Labor's priorities.
HOSTED BY NAB

Global General Counsel and Head of Corporate Affairs at TikTok Erich Andersen spoke to us on data security, and balancing user and community safety with creative expression.
HOSTED BY TIKTOK

QLD Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport, Stirling Hinchliffe, provided us with an update on the Olympics.

DECEMBER

Director-General of the QLD Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Dr Chris Sarra joined us for an executive roundtable in Brisbane.
HOSTED BY DELOITTE

Chief of Staff to the Minister for Health, Nick Martin, joined us to discuss the Health Minister's strategy moving forward.

NSW Shadow Minister for Transport Jo Haylen addressed our members in a policy forum pre-election.

THE McKell Institute

Reports & Research

In 2022, the first post-COVID federal election and progressive victory meant that McKell Institute research was at the forefront of the national public policy debate. Our diverse policy ideas examine everything from free TAFE, community batteries, infrastructure inequality, wages growth and workers compensation.

Australia's rapidly changing policy landscape has meant that it is more important now than ever to advance big ideas and reform. Take a look at some of our policy with impact:

2022

Burns Care In Victoria

In our first report of 2022, we found that every year, over 5,000 patients present to Emergency Departments throughout Victoria with burn injuries. Currently, these patients are forced to navigate a fragmented burnscare system that contradicts international guidelines, causes unnecessary handovers and provides little continuity of care. This report outlined a path to reforming Victoria's burn service.

Herald Sun

News › Victoria

Victorian burns patients at higher risk of infections and complications

The state's top burns specialists warn Melbourne's services have fallen a long way behind international standards, putting patients at higher risk.

Grant McArthur HEALTH EDITOR

Herald Sun

Funding the Infrastructure of Tomorrow

By investing in infrastructure, the government can promote growth and development, and begin to address numerous forms of economic and social disadvantage. This report sets out the need to continue to invest in new roads, public transport, schools, and hospitals to address infrastructure inequality.

NSW Labor Leader Chris Minns MP launching *Funding the Infrastructure of Tomorrow.*

Data Briefing Series: Elective Surgery

McKell Institute projected that NSW elective surgery waiting lists will increase to 245,000 within five years if elective surgery continues to be suspended.

The Sydney Morning Herald

Overdue elective surgeries to triple after pandemic backlog, analysis shows

Lucy Carroll and Mary Ward

April 7, 2022 — 5.00am

Stuck In Neutral: The Policy Architecture Driving Slow Wage Growth in Australia

This report looked back at the trends in wage growth in Australia over the last 14 years, identifying the seven policy positions and priorities that the previous Federal Government pursued that contributed to sustained low wage growth.

Wage Cutting Strategies in the Mining Industry: An Update

Back in 2020, McKell published Wage Cutting Strategies in the Mining Sector. That report identified that major mining sector employers were utilising labour-hire firms to minimise wage costs – directly impacting both individual workers and communities. Two years on, this updated report examines the most recently available data to update the findings and recommendations.

Capitalising on the Lithium Ion Battery Waste Resource Challenge in South Australia

The shift towards cleaner forms of energy and electric vehicles is vital if Australia is to mitigate the worst aspects of climate change, but the reliance of these technologies on lithium-ion batteries creates a challenging externality: battery waste. This report explores this challenge through a South Australian lens.

'It's Broken'

Workers' compensation is a fundamental workers' entitlement. This report assesses the quality of the NSW workers' compensation scheme a decade on from the substantial 2012 reforms made to the system.

The Canberra Times

Calls to fix 'abusive' NSW workers' compo

By Finbar O'Mallon
Updated July 4 2022 - 7:36pm, first published 7:30pm

McKell CEO Michael Buckland launching It's Broken at NSW Parliament

First Mover Moment: Making the Most of Australia's Hydrogen Opportunity

The role that clean hydrogen can play in the transition to renewable energy has become an increasingly important aspect of policy discussions both in Australia and overseas. This report details the economic opportunity available to Australia by increasing short-term investment in a domestic clean hydrogen industry, with a long-term view towards being the first mover in a lucrative international hydrogen export market.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Companies Energy Hydrogen

'We are not unique': global race on hydrogen exports

Rejecting the option of "blue" hydrogen risks giving a jump-start to rival countries jockeying to capture the expected huge opportunity in green energy exports, according to The McKell Institute.

It has advised the Australian Workers Union that all forms of hydrogen should be on the table as Australia builds up its credentials in the fuel.

Angela Macdonald-Smith
Senior resources writer

Addressing Infrastructure Inequality: A Path to Equality for Melbourne's Outer Suburbs

This report drew on findings from our March 2022 paper Funding the infrastructure of tomorrow to examine infrastructure inequality in Victoria. Crucially, the report found there is a gap in infrastructure provision among large-scale, traditional infrastructure as well as local community infrastructure and that unequal access to infrastructure is concentrated in Melbourne's outer suburbs.

THE AGE

Exclusive Politics Victoria Infrastructure

Capp demands second Metro tunnel as councils clash over city's future

By Paul Sakkal
August 18, 2022 – 5.00am

Save Share A A A 18 View all comments

The McKell Institute report, *Addressing Infrastructure Inequality*, notes Victoria spends more on infrastructure than any state but the gap between public transport options for low and high-income earners is worse in Melbourne than other cities.

Women In Work: A Story of Exclusion

Released ahead of the 2022 Jobs and Skills Summit, this report by McKell QLD Executive Director Sarah Mawhinney, analysed some of the key Summit objectives through the lens of gender equality and women's workforce participation.

The Cost of Extreme Weather

Climate change is driving worsening destructive extreme weather events in a range of different ways around Australia; from more severe bushfire seasons and intense heatwaves to more powerful cyclones, flash flooding and droughts. This report calls on the government to focus more on resilience and future-proofing in order to mitigate the rising costs of extreme weather.

This report was launched alongside the Insurance Council of Australia

Working, Learning: Better Supporting Victorian Apprentices on the Job

This report was published with the support of the Victorian Trades Hall Council and Young Workers Centre Victoria. This report found that Victorian apprenticeship completion rates are below the national average and in response, in the lead up to the recent state election, the Andrews government committed to establish an Apprenticeships Taskforce to improve safety and fairness for apprentices.

IN THE MEDIA

The McKell Institute's Michael Buckland appeared on *A Current Affair* and *7News* to discuss the findings.

Setting the Standard: Improving Educational Outcomes in Australia

Our final report of 2022 examined declining education outcomes in Australia and assessed the most effective policy options that could improve results. The Sydney Morning Herald followed the launch of the report with an editorial declaring "It's time Australia invested in its children, and its future."

Impact

33% OF INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS FROM SYDNEY

20% OF INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS FROM MELBOURNE

10% OF INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS FROM BRISBANE

MORE THAN **10K** TWITTER FOLLOWERS

MORE THAN **65K** PROFILE VISITS

25% INCREASE IN PAGE VISITS

FACEBOOK PAGE REACH INCREASED BY **184.1%** COMPARED TO PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

LINKED IN

420% INCREASE IN PAGE VIEWS & IN POST INTERACTIONS

35% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS

65% INCREASE IN VIDEO WATCH TIME ON MCKELL INSTITUTE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

OVER 150 STORIES & 100 POSTS PUBLISHED

40K INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS REACHED

MENTIONED ACROSS 50+ MEDIA OUTLETS

FINANCIAL REVIEW, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, ABC, SBS, THE AUSTRALIAN, CHANNEL 10, 9NEWS, CHANNEL 7, THE GUARDIAN, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, THE AGE, HERALD SUN, DAILY MAIL, SKY NEWS, COURIER MAIL, THE NEW DAILY, THE SATURDAY PAPER, THE MONTHLY, CANBERRA TIMES, BRISBANE TIMES, THE ADVERTISER, TASMANIAN TIMES, WATODAY,

Instagram / Tweets

CEO MICHAEL BUCKLAND, MCKELL INSTITUTE LAUNCH OF IT'S BROKEN: WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES SINCE 2012 JULY 2022

"Thank you to all of our supporters, academics and advocates who have ensured the McKell Institute continues to undertake robust research with real world impact."

Governance

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