

# THE FORUMS @ ANN



WITH SPECIAL GUEST:  
HON. KAREN  
STRUTHERS MP,  
MINISTER FOR  
WOMEN, AND  
MINISTER FOR  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES AND  
HOUSING.

## UNDERSTANDING AND CHALLENGING THE AUSTRALIAN GENDER ORDER

ON WEDNESDAY THE 23RD JUNE 2010, EIDOS INSTITUTE AND WISE FOUNDATION WILL BE HOSTING A **FORUM@ANN** WITH THE MINISTER FOR WOMEN, HON. KAREN STRUTHERS MP. THE FORUM WILL BE FACILITATED BY DALE SPENDER, AND WILL FEATURE THE WORK OF DR JANE HASLER.

The gender order in contemporary Australia is manifested by a work/care regime that involves the interplay between three forces – beliefs, behaviours and institutions. This regime is underpinned by a ‘male breadwinner’ gender division of labour model which was embedded following the Second World War. Since this time, there has been radical change in womens lives with the dramatic increase in the number of them returning to the paid labour force. In contrast, there has been a minimal corresponding shift in mens lives during this same period.

Recent research has found there is a strong relationship between demands associated with the current Australian gender order and individual distress. Dr Jane Hasler argues that the time is ripe to challenge this order and in doing so, it first needs to be understood.

How deeply do the social and cultural constructions of gender identities run within Australian society? Has the pattern of power distribution between men and women equalised, shifted or remained stagnant?

In accordance with the Eidos Institute’s commitment to contributing and facilitating public debate, this event will bring together politicians, community leaders, political commentators & research experts in the field of gender equity in Australia and will be MC’d by feminist and author Dale Spender.

### CONTRIBUTING GUESTS

**Dr Jane Hasler** recently received her doctorate in sociology, in which she researched postnatal depression at the University of Sydney. She also has an honours degree in gender studies from Griffith University and a graduate diploma in communication.

**Dale Spender** has had many careers - in keeping with the changing times. She has been - student, teacher, academic (reformed), examiner, author/editor, publisher, researcher, feminist, consultant, director, chairperson, media and forum contributor, public speaker, independent thinker, fund raiser, intellectual property stirrer, and mind-changer -- and all at an international level. Dale is also a founding member of the Second Chance Programme Fund Raising Group (inc) for homeless women.

Wednesday, 23 June

Eidos Head Office, 166 Ann St, Brisbane

Tickets \$15, register at [www.eidos.org.au](http://www.eidos.org.au)

Forum from 12.30pm - 1.25pm

Lunch & live music on the deck @ 12pm

*PLEASE JOIN THE EIDOS INSTITUTE FOR AN HOUR OF LIVELY DISCUSSION AND DEBATE WHICH WILL BE PRECEDED BY HALF AN HOUR OF LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD AT BLEEDING HEART CAFÉ.*

#### EIDOS UNIVERSITY NETWORK



#### EIDOS INDUSTRY PARTNERS





**EIDOS  
WHERE  
IDEAS  
AND  
PEOPLE  
MEET**

**WITH THANKS TO:**

MEDIA PARTNERS



CATERING BY



*All proceeds from THE FORUMS go towards funding post doctoral researchers working on key national challenges via the Eidos Gift Fund*

## THE FORUMS

Eidos Institute is a high quality Australian research institute and think tank with a focus on public policy. In accordance with our commitment to contributing and facilitating public debate, we are hosting a series of lunchtime forums that aim to bring together politicians, community leaders, political commentators & research experts to discuss current and topical issues of public interest.

The topic of discussion is facilitated by a panel which consists of experts from the fields of policy, politics and research, however it is our aim to frame the discussion and debate in such a way as to avoid a stagnant re-hash of old problems and stale solutions. The Forums will provide live music and the opportunity to network with some of the most innovative and creative minds in the area of public policy.

As renowned American essayist and biographer Agnes Repplier once stated, "Democracy forever teases us with the contrast between its ideals and its realities, between its heroic possibilities and its sorry achievements". Her words succinctly sum up the contemporary struggle of modern Western democracies to continue to engage and include public opinion in a globalised world.

As the complexity of our globalised world continues to increase in tandem with the scale and size of the bureaucracy needed to govern it, we must not lose sight of our key democratic principles. The answer to this problem lies in the increased involvement of public opinion in the formulation of public policy and within the sphere of public debate.

We feel that The Forums are a step in the right direction in terms of reinvigorating and revitalising the public sphere, and have the potential to evolve into an exciting opportunity for influencing and facilitating quality research and debate in the area of public policy.

## HON. KAREN STRUTHERS MP

Karen Struthers was sworn in as Queensland Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women on 26 March 2009. She was elected to the Queensland Parliament in June 1998 and has represented her current seat of Algester since February 2001. Prior to becoming a Minister, Karen was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health.

Karen holds a Bachelor of Social Work with Honours from the University of Queensland and a Masters of Public Sector Management with Honours from Griffith University. Prior to her election to the Queensland Parliament, Karen was Assistant Director of the Queensland Council of Social Services.

Karen is delighted to have been given her current portfolio by the Premier. She believes the combination of the Departments of Communities and Housing is the right mix, in that it will enable these two crucial Departments to work together in a real partnership.

## WISE FOUNDATION

Wise Foundation believes that all people and communities should have the opportunity to achieve economic independence through business. Our core mission is, 'To strengthen communities through assisting the creation of innovative economic models.' Based in Melbourne, Australia, the Wise Foundation was formed in April 2008 to further the community development and social commitments of The Body Shop Australia, the Adidem group of companies and the Wise family. More information at [www.wisefoundation.com.au](http://www.wisefoundation.com.au)

## 166 ANN STREET

Eidos Institute home is located in the iconic, heritage listed School of Arts at 166 Ann Street, Brisbane. The beautifully preserved example of 19th century masonry was constructed as the "Servant's Home" by Lady Bowen and a group of private citizens in 1865, providing a home for single adult females who had migrated to Queensland and were awaiting employment as domestic servants. It was purchased by the Brisbane School of Arts in 1873 for around \$2000, officially opening for that purpose in 17th May 1878. It was acquired by Brisbane City Council in 1965, initially to be used as a municipal library, and was restored in 1984-1985.

Currently, Eidos resides on the ground level of this building which also is home to Bleeding Heart Café and Bleeding Heart Gallery.