

## **Think Tank Organisations – By Category**

A Think Tank (or policy institute, research institute etc) is an organisation that performs research and advocacy concerning topics such as social policy, political strategy, economics, military, technology and culture. Most policy institutes are non-profit organisations, which some countries such as the United States and Canada provide with tax exempt status. Other think tanks are funded by governments, advocacy groups or businesses, or derive funding from consulting or research work related to their projects.

### **Categories**

- Political and Social
- Interest and Lobby groups
- Diplomacy, development and International affairs
- Defence
- Rural Interests
- Environment
- Building, Planning and Transport
- Education
- Philosophy and Ethics

### **Political and Social**

#### **Australian Labor Party**

- Australian Fabian Society - <http://www.fabian.org.au/1.asp>

*Though we call ourselves a think tank, the Australian Fabians are more than this. For more than half a century, we have been at the forefront of research and debate into progressive political ideas and public policy reform.*

*The Australian Fabians Inc is an independent organisation which looks in particular to the Labor Party for giving effect to social democratic principles and values. Our relationship with Labor governments is that of a 'critical friend'. We are neither 'on-' nor 'off-message'. Some of what we do may be congruent with government thinking; some not. Good government needs new ideas and public debate. It is our positive responsibility to ask difficult questions - and if necessary to propose difficult answers - where we feel this is important. There is little use in a think tank which does not do this, and our constitution and history demand it of us. Our independence of mind is fiercely guarded.*

*Moreover, our constituency extends well beyond the Labor Party. We are a forum and a resource for people throughout the progressive wing of politics. One of our roles is to act as a bridge between those inside the party and on the conventional left of centre and those sharing similar aims and values whose identities and forms of political organisation lie elsewhere.*

- Chifley Research Centre (ALP's official policy development institute) - <http://www.chifley.org.au/>

*The Chifley Research Centre is the Labor Party's official think tank, committed to the advancement of public policy debate and progressive thinking in Australia. To this end, the Centre promotes policy discussion in universities and throughout political and industrial forums; commissions academic research into pressing and long term public policy issues affecting Australia; provides strategic policy advice to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party; and works in conjunction with other research and intellectual bodies to promote better understanding of the Australian political and policy environment.*

### Liberal Party of Australia

- Menzies Research Centre (Liberal's official policy development institute) – <http://www.mrcld.org.au/>

*The Menzies Research Centre works to promote the principles of individual liberty, free speech, competitive enterprise, limited government, democracy and the family as the foundation of a stable society.*

*As a leading public policy institute, the Menzies Research Centre undertakes extensive research, develops forums for debate and provides recommendations that are practical and applicable. It engages leading minds around the world on topics as diverse as national security, education, indigenous economic development and demographic change.*

*The Menzies Research Centre publishes books and monographs, and organises conferences and seminars, including the John Howard Lecture, throughout the year.*

### General Progressive

- Australia Institute (The) - <http://www.tai.org.au/>

*The Australia Institute is the country's most influential progressive think tank. Based in Canberra, it conducts research on a broad range of economic, social and environmental issues in order to inform public debate and bring greater accountability to the democratic process.*

*The Institute is funded by donations from philanthropic trusts and individuals, and commissioned research. With no formal political or commercial ties, the Institute is in a position to maintain its independence while advancing a vision for a fair and progressive Australia.*

*The Institute is determined to push public debate beyond the simplistic question of whether markets or governments have all the answers to more important questions: When does government need to intervene in the market? When should it stand back? And when regulation is needed, what form should it take?*

- Per Capita - <http://www.percapita.org.au/>

*Per Capita is an independent progressive think tank dedicated to building a new vision for Australia.*

*Several years ago a group of individuals came together, concerned about the Australian political landscape. We felt that public discussion focused too much on old debates and false debates, rather than real debates. For example, commentators have been arguing the economy versus the environment (an old debate) and contesting the science (a false debate), rather than considering how to account for the full social costs of climate change (a real debate). Against this backdrop, we discussed the need for a small professional body to develop progressive ideas specific to Australia.*

- Western Australia Policy Forum (WAPF) - <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/new-critic/nine/roche> (current)

*West Australia has a unique set of policy issues and challenges, distinct from the Eastern States. WAPF aims to provide a forum for the dissemination of progressive policy analysis, ideas, and recommendations specific to the State.*

*This forum will be provided in the form of publications, on line dialogue and public meetings.*

*WAPF has no party allegiance or particular policy line and welcomes submissions from authors of all progressive parties and views. However WAPF maintains a strict anti-discrimination policy and will not consider publications that breach this policy commitment in any way.*

The Objectives of WAPF in the WAPF Constitution:

- *Develop and promote evidence-based analysis and policy conducive to a vision of Western Australia as a well-governed, mature, free, democratic, liberal, egalitarian, prosperous, ethical, sustainable, fair and just society within the Commonwealth of Australia.*
- *Undertake research into specific areas of policy concern*
- *Stimulate debate within the State of Western Australia on contemporary issues of policy concern and assist in reframing public debate towards achieving consensus over progressive policy goals*
- *Promote the ideal of long term policy planning, extending beyond electoral cycles*
- *Act as a focal point for legislators, academics, policy makers, opinion leaders and citizens to exchange views and information in relation to specific areas of policy concern*
- *Facilitate exchanges of views with other similar institutions, including the development of national and international joint initiatives*

*In light of the other objects to evaluate the impact of national, regional and international trends on Western Australia and in support of these objectives:*

- *Conduct seminars, prepare papers, articles, presentations, books and other publications in support of these objectives*
- *Cause such publications to be brought to the attention of the media and State and Federal government, trades unions, political parties and other interested organisations and individuals*

*Promote and assist other educational purposes both in Western Australia and elsewhere*

### General Conservative

- H. R. Nicholls Society - <http://www.hrnicholls.com.au/index.php>

*Australia is a country in which political life is carried out through debate and argument. The Society's ambition is to bring about, through the processes of debate and argument, urgently needed reform in Australia's industrial relations attitudes, law and institutions, and thus to transform our labour market into a job-creating and wealth-generating engine of growth and prosperity.*

Our aims are:

- *To promote discussion about the operation of industrial relations in Australia including the system of determining wages and other conditions of employment.*
- *To promote the rule of law with respect to employers and employee organisations alike.*
- *To promote reform of the current wage-fixing system.*

*To support the necessity for labour relations to be conducted in such a way as to promote economic development in Australia.*

- National Civic Council - <http://national-civic-council.org.au/>

*The National Civic Council (NCC) is an organisation which seeks to shape public policy on cultural, family, social, political, economic and international issues of concern to Australia.*

*Where the National Civic Council stands:*

### *The Primacies*

- *The family as the basic unit of society, the foundation of the nation and the most effective provider of welfare to children, the sick or disabled, and the aged.*

- *The small unit in agriculture (the family farm), business, government and unions in opposition to monopolies and excessive centralization.*
- *The integrity of the individual, including full legal protection of the right to life for all human beings from fertilisation to natural death.*
- *Patriotism, built around the foundations of an independent foreign policy based on the national interest, self-reliance in defence, and insistence on Australia's sovereignty over financial markets or international agencies.*
- *Judeo-Christian values which provide the cement to hold our society together in opposition to the prevailing view which rejects the concept of the common good and makes the difference between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, a matter of personal preference only rather than objective reality.*

### Free-Market Libertarian

- Australian Libertarian Society - <http://blog.libertarian.org.au/>

*The Australian Libertarian Society (ALS) is a central portal for information about the libertarian movement in Australia.*

*Active since 2000, the ALS supports free-markets, individual liberty and the promotion of peaceful, voluntary interaction between people. The aim of the ALS is to bring together the many different strands of libertarian thought spread through Australia, including [objectivists](#), [Rothbardians](#), [classical liberals](#), [anarcho-capitalists](#), [moderates](#), [pragmatic libertarians](#), [Austrian economists](#), [free-marketeers](#), and anybody else who believes in freedom.*

*The main activities of the ALS is to arrange occasional events, provide information about libertarian events and important issues in Australia, make occasional submissions to government, release occasional articles, and to support other organisations and projects that share a libertarian agenda. If you would like to be involved, please [join us on facebook](#), sign up to receive our updates ([top-right of the main page](#)), come along to one of the events mentioned on our website, or send us an article that you would like published.*

- Committee for Economic Development of Australia - <http://ceda.com.au/>

*CEDA is an independent national member organisation that provides thought leadership and policy perspectives on the economic and social issues affecting Australia. We achieve this through a rigorous and evidence-based research agenda and forums and events that deliver lively debate and critical perspectives.*

*Our only agenda is to pursue good public policy to progress Australia's economic and social development.*

*CEDA research raises the level of public policy debate and discourse around the country by drawing*

together the best minds on key issues of the day to inject new ideas into the policy debate.

- Institute for Private Enterprise - <http://www.ipe.net.au/ipeframeset.htm>

*The Institute for Private Enterprise was established by Des Moore in February 1996 as a body to promote the cause of private enterprise and to argue for a reduction in the role of government. This does not mean that IPE supports any form of private enterprise or that it espouses the elimination of government. In particular, private monopolies and enterprises that depend on government imposed restrictions on competition are not favoured. Equally, government has a legitimate and important role in assisting those who are genuinely disadvantaged and in maintaining a legal system within which enterprises can flourish. Indeed, whether or not the "institutional" framework is conducive to risk-taking and innovation is an important determinant of economic growth.*

- Centre for Independent Studies CIS - <http://www.cis.org.au/>

*The Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) is Australia's leading public policy research institute.*

*The CIS supports a market economy and a free civil society under democratic government. We believe that smaller government is the key to unlocking individual responsibility, liberty, choice and enterprise.*

*Through [public policy research](#) and [events](#), the CIS encourages debate among leading academics, politicians, media and the public. We aim to make sure good policy ideas are heard and seriously considered so that Australia can continue to prosper into the future.*

*We are proud to be associated with some of the greatest leaders in business and academia as visiting lecturers or as CIS members, staff and on the Board of Directors.*

- Samuel Griffith Society - <http://samuelgriffith.org.au/>

*The Society proposes the following objectives:*

Generally

- *to promote discussion of constitutional matters through the articulation of a clear position in support of decentralisation of power through the renewal of our federal structure*
- *to defend the great virtues of the present Constitution against those who would undermine it in order to supplant it with a unitary state*
- *to restore the authority of Parliament and defend the independence of the judiciary*
- *to foster and support reform of Australia's constitutional system to these ends.*

Specifically

- *to arrange conferences, hold meetings, publish papers, and inform people and governments in accordance with the general objectives set out above*

*thereby to encourage a wider understanding of Australia's Constitution and the nation's achievements under the Constitution.*

### Labour Movements

- Evatt Foundation - <http://www.evatt.org.au/>

*The Evatt Foundation was established in 1979 as a memorial to Dr Herbert Vere Evatt with the aim of advancing the ideals of the labour movement, such as equality, participation, social justice and human rights. For more than 30 years, the Foundation has been helping to promote these ideals through research, publications, public discussion and debate.*

*During the past 33 years, the Evatt Foundation has established a prominent public profile through its public education program of seminars, conferences and publications. A major reason for the success of the Foundation over the years has been the support of its loyal membership base.*

### Non-Partisan

- Australian Institute of Policy & Science - <http://www.aips.net.au/>

*The Australian Institute of Policy and Science (AIPS) is an independent and non-partisan not-for-profit organisation first founded in 1932. We have grown with Australia's public policy history and work to:*

- *Increase public engagement in science*
- *Promote excellence in research, innovation and the promotion and communication of science*
- *Inform and influence policy and policy-making*
- *Invest in a scientifically inspired, literate and skilled Australia that contributes to local and global social challenges*

*AIPS achieves its objectives through an extensive network of partners spanning university, government, industry and community actors.*

- Australian Politics - <http://www.australianpolitics.com/issues/think-tanks.shtml>

*AustralianPolitics.com is the work of Malcolm Farnsworth. In a previous life, I was a school teacher in Melbourne.*

*It began as a site for students of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Political Studies course and originally appeared as VCEpolitics.com in 1995. I acquired the AustralianPolitics.com domain in 2001.*

*Over time, the site has developed into an eclectic archive of documents, speeches, data and assorted information, including audio files of significant events.*

*The “old” site remains in its original form, using static pages. These are being migrated to the WordPress format over time.*

- The Brisbane Institute - <http://www.brisinst.org.au/>

*Welcome to The Brisbane Institute, Queensland’s premier think tank and independent forum for ideas, insight, inspiration and innovation.*

*Since 1998, The Brisbane Institute has been bringing the communities of greater Brisbane and south east Queensland together with leaders in government, business, industry and academia to challenge assumptions, provoke discussion, share information and generate solutions to issues that affect us all.*

*Through research, debates, commentary and advocacy, the Institute plays a critical role in highlighting issues, balancing perspectives, influencing policy and helping its communities to change their worlds, one idea at a time.*

- Centre for Policy Development - <http://cpd.org.au/>

*The [Centre for Policy Development](http://cpd.org.au/) is a public interest think tank dedicated to seeking out creative, viable ideas and innovative research to inject into Australia’s policy debates.*

*We give a diverse [community of thinkers](#) space to imagine solutions to Australia’s most urgent challenges, and we do what it takes to make their ideas matter.*

*The short-term thinking of the election cycle is damaging Australia’s long-term interests. From the global economic crisis to the climate emergency, the costs of poor public policy are increasingly clear. We have allowed material prosperity to distract us from the real and urgent challenge of [putting our economy and environment on a fair and sustainable footing](#). It is time for a profound change in the way public policy is developed in Australia. We need to move from top-down, short-term ad-hoc ‘reforms’ to long-term, systemic renewal based on consistent principles, widespread citizen participation and a realistic understanding of how we live now.*

- Grattan Institute - <http://grattan.edu.au/>

*Grattan Institute is an independent think tank dedicated to developing high quality public policy for Australia’s future. It was formed in 2008 in response to a widespread view in government and business that Australia needed a non-partisan think tank providing independent, rigorous and practical solutions to some of the country’s most pressing problems.*

*Grattan runs seven policy programs: Australian Perspectives, Cities, Energy, Health, Higher Education, Productivity Growth and School Education. We chose them because we believe they are vital to shaping Australia’s direction as a liberal democracy in a global economy.*



- Institute of Public Affairs IPA - <http://www.ipa.org.au/>

*The Institute of Public Affairs is an independent, non-profit public policy think tank, dedicated to preserving and strengthening the foundations of economic and political freedom.*

*Since 1943, the IPA has been at the forefront of the political and policy debate, defining the contemporary political landscape.*

*The IPA is funded by individual memberships and subscriptions, as well as philanthropic and corporate donors. [Support the IPA today!](#)*

*The IPA supports the free market of ideas, the free flow of capital, a limited and efficient government, evidence-based public policy, the rule of law, and representative democracy. Throughout human history, these ideas have proven themselves to be the most dynamic, liberating and exciting. Our researchers apply these ideas to the public policy questions which matter today.*

*The IPA's specific research areas include the environment, deregulation, workplace relations, energy, political governance, intellectual property, telecommunications, technology, housing, education, health and agriculture.*

- Left Right Think-Tank - <http://www.leftright.org.au/>

*Left Right Think-Tank is Australia's first independent, non-partisan think-tank of young minds with a mission to involve young people in public policy.*

*Our vision is for a nation that seeks and embraces the ideas of young people. We aim to help create a society where young people advise and are consulted on national issues of broad community concern, not just youth issues.*

*We are not-for-profit and all our staff are aged between 15 – 24 and volunteer their time for our cause.*

- Maxim Institute - <http://www.maxim.org.nz/> (New Zealand)

*Our mission is to foster ideas and leadership that enable freedom, justice and compassion to flourish in New Zealand.*

*As a think tank, Maxim Institute engages in the following core activities:*

- *Producing research and informed analysis of contemporary issues;*
- *Developing and promoting sound public policy;*

- *Communicating our research findings and policy initiatives to the decision-makers and leaders of today;*
- *Training and mentoring tomorrow's leaders; and*
- *Equipping New Zealanders to become better informed and more effective agents of change in their community*

*Maxim Institute is an independent organisation that is funded by donations. It does not receive funding from any government agency or political party. Since its inception in late 2001, over 1700 individuals and trusts have contributed financially to Maxim Institute.*

- The McGuinness Institute - <http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org/> (New Zealand)

*We are a diverse group of graduates, academics and experienced professionals working towards a sustainable future. To do this we have developed a way of working together to produce reports, papers and background information that we hope will inform, support and inspire other New Zealanders.*

*The McGuinness Institute is a non-partisan think tank working for the public good, contributing strategic foresight through evidence-based research and policy analysis. We endeavour to undertake research that is independent, innovative and relevant in a professional, ethical and honest manner. Further, the Institute places a great value on inclusiveness and accessibility and works hard to respect cultural and demographic diversity.*

*The Institute undertakes research and analysis relating to the long-term development of New Zealand. It provides an independent voice, encouraging conversations about the long-term impact of current and future decisions. It also contributes to public discussion by providing submissions and comment to government decision-makers about issues significant to the sustainable future of New Zealand.*

*The Institute is non-partisan and has no affiliation with any political parties, government departments or organisations, however we have in the past worked with organisations who share a common interest on specific projects. Our work involves frequent communication with government and other national and international organisations.*

- The McKell Institute – <http://mckellinstitute.org.au/>

*The McKell Institute is a public policy institute dedicated to developing practical policy ideas and contributing to public debate.*

*The McKell Institute was officially launched in April 2012 following the release of our first policy report [Homes for All](#).*

*Key areas of activity for the McKell Institute include producing regular policy research papers, hosting policy roundtable discussions and public lectures, as well as undertaking landmark longitudinal studies of community attitudes and aspirations.*

*The McKell Institute is an independent not for profit organisation, funded entirely by donations from supporters.*

- The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research - <http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/>

*The Melbourne Institute is Australia's leading and longest standing research institute in the field of economics, undertaking cutting-edge research into key issues relevant to contemporary economic and social policy.*

*The Melbourne Institute's mission is:*

- *undertake and publish high-quality independent and impartial applied research on major policy-relevant economic and social issues in Australia*
- *foster informed discussion and debate about public policy in Australia*
- *contribute to the international literature in selected key research areas that are of international relevance*
- *provide highly valued research services, publications, datasets and products for government, business and community groups*
- *provide research training through an internationally recognised PhD program*

*We are politically non-aligned, impartial and independent.*

- Sydney Institute (The) - <http://www.thesydneyinstitute.com.au/>

*The Sydney Institute is a privately funded not-for-profit current affairs forum encouraging debate and discussion. The Institute is genuinely pluralist and a wide and diverse range of views are heard at its forums. In 2010 both Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott addressed the Institute.*

*The Institute conducts about 60 policy forums a year (held usually between 6 pm and 7 pm) on a wide range of issues – including economics, politics, international affairs, literature, history, film, social policy – along with a well attended annual dinner/lecture. Past speakers at the dinner have included George Miller, Shirley Hazzard, Peter Cosgrove, Simone Young, Andy Thomas, Peter Doherty, Patricia Hewitt, William Shawcross, Kate Jennings, Richard Tognetti, Clive James, Tom Friedman, Kevin Rudd, Quentin Bryce and Simon Schama.*

## Interest and Lobby Groups

- Doctors Reform Society of Australia - <http://www.drs.org.au/>

*The Doctors Reform Society (DRS) was formed in 1973 to support a proposal for a publicly-funded universal health insurance system. Medibank (now Medicare) was successfully created despite opposition from the Australian Medical Association.*

*All Australians have public health insurance paid through taxes. This provides substantial rebates or subsidies for medical care and access to public hospitals with no out of pocket costs.*

*The DRS produces a journal New Doctor and local newsletters. Media releases are regularly issued. Articles and letters from members frequently appear in the press. National conferences are held annually and an extensive policy document has been developed.*

*All members' views are valued, and open debate on all health issues is encouraged both within and outside the organization. The Friends of Medicare "Fact Sheets" are also available. The DRS functions as a medico-political think tank, a lobby group and a public resource centre.*

*It is not affiliated to any political party, receives no corporate funding, and relies financially on subscriptions and donations.*

*The DRS will speak out against any political party, organisation or individual that threatens public health care.*

## Diplomacy, Development and International Affairs

- The Australia India Institute – <http://www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/>

*The Australia India Institute (AII) is a leading centre for the study of India. Through its teaching, research, public policy and outreach programs, it is building Australia's capacity to understand India. AII is also a hub for dialogue, research and partnerships between India and Australia.*

*Based at the University of Melbourne, the Institute hosts a growing range of programs that are deepening and enriching the relationship between the two countries.*

*The University of Melbourne established the Australia India Institute in October 2008. In 2009, funding for the Institute was provided by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.*

- Asia Society (AustralAsia) - <http://asiasociety.org/>

*Asia Society is the leading educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, the Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future.*

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution with headquarters in [New York](#), centers in [Hong Kong](#) and [Houston](#), and affiliated offices in [Los Angeles](#), [Manila](#), [Mumbai](#), [San Francisco](#), [Seoul](#), [Shanghai](#), [Sydney](#), and [Washington, DC](#).

- Asialink - <http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/>

*Asialink is Australia's leading centre for the promotion of public understanding of the countries of Asia and of Australia's role in the region. We are a key provider of information, training and professional networks.*

*Asialink is an affiliate of [The University of Melbourne](#) and an initiative of the [Myer Foundation](#). Asialink's mission is to work with business, government, philanthropic and cultural partners to initiate and strengthen Australia Asia engagement.*

*Asialink excels in "soft diplomacy" - delivering high-level forums, international collaborations, leadership training, education, community health and cultural programs in Australia and Asia.*

- Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) - <http://www.aiaa.asn.au/>

*The Australian Institute of International Affairs is an independent, non-profit organisation promoting interest in and understanding of international affairs in Australia. The AIIA arranges more than 150 [lectures and seminars](#) per year across seven Branches, publishes [books and journals](#) giving an Australian outlook on international issues and conducts [study tours](#) periodically. It also runs an active [program for young people](#) to engage with international affairs.*

*It provides a forum for discussion and debate, but does not seek to formulate its own institutional views. The Institute arranges programs of [lectures](#), seminars, workshops, conferences and other discussions, and sponsors research and publications. The AIIA was formed in 1924 and established as a federal body in 1933 and is the only nation-wide organisation of its kind in Australia. It is financed by members' contributions, a small government subvention and tax deductible donations from individuals and businesses.*

- Development Policy Centre – <https://devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/>

*The Development Policy Centre is a think tank for aid and development policy based at the Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University. We research and promote discussion of Australian aid; the Pacific and PNG; and global development policy. The [Development Policy blog](#) is a platform for the best analysis of these issues. Our [discussion papers](#), [policy briefs](#) and [reports](#) make our research available for extension and use. Our events are a forum for the dissemination of findings and the exchange of new ideas. We provide a unique Australian and regional meeting place for researchers and those in government and the non-government sector working on aid and development policy.*

- Issues Deliberation Australia/America - <http://www.ida.org.au/>

*Issues Deliberation Australia / America (IDA) was a not-for-profit, non-partisan political psychology and public policy think tank. IDA was established to facilitate the conduct and dissemination of high quality research, public consultation, education and public debate on topical social and public policy issues impacting Australia, America and the world. In 2011, IDA became the policy arm of the international organization Psychology Beyond Borders.*

- Lowy Institute for International Policy – <http://www.lowyinstitute.org/>

*The Lowy Institute is an independent, nonpartisan international policy think tank located in Sydney, Australia. Ranked as [Australia's top think tank](#), the Institute provides high-quality research and distinctive perspectives on the trends shaping Australia and the world and fresh policy options on these questions.*

*The Institute also hosts debates and discussions within Australia and internationally. The Institute's vision is an open Australia, engaged with the world. Our work is inspired by the knowledge that Australia's future depends on our capacity to understand, and respond to, a rapidly changing world. We know that Australian views and ideas can make a real contribution to dealing with global challenges.*

*Our role is to generate and disseminate those ideas widely. Our ambition is to be the premier think tank in Asia and the Pacific on international affairs and issues that affect Australia and the region, in the interests of greater security and prosperity. Our unique position in the Asia Pacific region supports our ability to interpret and influence the debate on the world's most dynamic region and Australia's role in it.*

*The Institute's research and analysis is accessible to anyone seeking to better understand foreign policy challenges facing Australia within the Asia-Pacific, and the global implications of developments in the region. The Lowy Institute team of leading experts conducts research through eight primary research divisions: Australia and the World, East Asia, West Asia, Melanesia, International Security, International Economy, Global Issues, and Polling.*

- United States Studies Centre - <http://ussc.edu.au/>

*The mission of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney is to increase understanding of the United States in Australia.*

*Spanning the study of politics and policy, economics and business, culture and society, the core activities of the Centre include:*

- *Postgraduate degrees and undergraduate teaching*
- *Academic research and research training*

- *Policy analysis and commentary*
- *Business leadership forums*
- *Public education and community outreach*

*The ambition of the United States Studies Centre is to become the leading academic institution outside America for the study of the United States.*

*Our principal objectives are to:*

- *Undertake analysis, research and teaching of the highest quality*
- *Be the international hub for the study of the United States*
- *Build networks with preeminent American academic institutions and scholars*
- Institute of Policy Studies - <http://igps.victoria.ac.nz/> (New Zealand)

*The Institute for Governance and Policy Studies (IGPS) fosters discussion, research and publication of current issues of domestic and foreign policy. We particularly link academic research and public policy by providing opportunities for independent and detached study, and for neutral and informed discussion of important and relevant issues. Our goal is to engage the broadest possible range of informed opinion, particularly in drawing people together from the universities, the public service, the business community and the wider public community. Our three catchwords might be summed up as study, engage, inform.*

## **Defence**

- AirPower Australia (Australia's Independent Defence Think Tank) – <http://www.ousairpower.net/>

*Australia requires a modern integrated joint national force structure for its defence. The purpose of Air Power Australia is to contribute to the development of such a joint force structure.*

*Air Power Australia is a non-profit entity established with the primary aim of [air power research and analysis](#), especially in the context of a modern integrated joint national force structure.*

*Air Power Australia is not affiliated with the Department of Defence, the Australian Defence Force or any other Commonwealth organisation.*

- Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) - <http://www.aspi.org.au/>

*ASPI is an independent, non-partisan think tank that produces expert and timely advice for Australia's strategic and defence leaders. ASPI generates new ideas for government, allowing them to make better-informed decisions for Australia's future. ASPI is one of the most authoritative and widely quoted contributors to public discussion of strategic policy issues in*

*Australia and a recognised and authoritative Australian voice in international discussion of strategic issues, especially in the Asia-Pacific.*

*ASPI aims, through its website, publications, blog, events and media activities, to be innovative, accurate and well-informed and to broaden public knowledge about the critical strategic choices our country will face over the coming years. The institute's work helps to foster strategic expertise in Australia through dialogue, research and its contribution to public debate. ASPI strives to provide a strong focus and constructive commentary on the practical choices and issues which confront Australia's strategic policy decisions, and this is reflected in ASPI's core values of collegiality, originality and innovation, quality and excellence, and independence.*

- Centre for Strategic Studies New Zealand – <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/css/>

*The Centre for Strategic Studies is the New Zealand anchor for research, teaching and public dialogue on strategic and security issues. We're proud to announce that the 2012 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, produced by the International Relations Program of the University of Pennsylvania, [ranks CSS third](#) among think tanks in Asia. We've also been announced as the 30th best university-affiliated think tank worldwide. Thousands of international scholars, policymakers, journalists, government officials, donors and think tank executives provide peer and expert review to these rankings.*

*The Centre has four main streams of activity:*

- *The academic programme through the [Master of Strategic Studies](#)*
- *The research programme, the fruits of which are seen in [Centre publications](#) on this site*
- *The [professional development programme](#) for government stakeholders*
- *Maintenance and development of international relationships, especially through the [Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific](#) for which the Centre is the New Zealand focal point.*

- Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC) - <http://ips.cap.anu.edu.au/sdsc/>

*The Centre is a part of the School of International, Political & Strategic Studies in The ANU College of Asia & the Pacific. The Centre's aim is to advance the study of strategic problems, especially those relating to the East Asia and Pacific regions.*

*Research undertaken at the Centre includes military, political, economic, environmental, scientific and technological aspects of strategic developments. Strategy, for the purpose of the Centre, is defined in the broadest sense of embracing not only the control and application of military force, but also the peaceful settlement of disputes which could cause violence.*



## Rural Interests

- Page Research Centre (Nationals' official policy development institute) - <http://www.page.org.au/>

*The Page Research Centre Limited was established in 2002 to take over the responsibilities of the Sir Earle Page Memorial Trust.*

*The trust operated from 1984, with a focus on researching rural and regional affairs and having an educative role within the community. Most notable, was a series of speeches organised by the trust and delivered by prominent Australians on issues relevant to the day. Copies of these [speeches](#) have been kept as many of the questions and ideas that were raised are still relevant.*

*Since 2002 the centre has taken on and developed the work of the trust, branching out into several new areas.*

*Research fellows at the centre continue to explore issues of prominence in regional Australia. Their findings are used to develop advice on policy that can be delivered to the top echelons of the Commonwealth Government.*

## Environment

- Ecologic Foundation - <http://www.ecologic.org.nz/> (New Zealand)

Our philosophy

*Ecologic wants a sustainable world. We believe such a world can only be created by bringing Ecology, Economy and Ethics into harmony. We can claim sustainable progress when all three are improving together – but not otherwise.*

*At Ecologic, we conduct research, consulting and advocacy on the management of natural resources to help find pathways to sustainable development.*

We find solutions

*What makes us different? Our basic premise is that lasting solutions – sustainable solutions – to environmental challenges can only be found by working with people, including those who have different values and interests.*

*Ecologic is the environmental group that believes economic development is important – we want New Zealand to do better. We believe in harnessing the power of the market economy to create incentives for sustainable development.*

- International Energy Centre – <http://internationalenergycentre.com/>

*The International Energy Centre (IEC) is a collaborative initiative established by three of Australia's leading universities and foundation industry member Glencore Xstrata. Our collective vision is to create an established centre of excellence in thought leadership, postgraduate education and innovation management to support the transition to a sustainable low carbon world.*

*As a membership based, not-for-profit organisation, we bring together world-leading expertise and capabilities. We promote energy literacy, leadership skills development and energy stewardship as our contribution towards achieving a sustainable low carbon future. Our education, training and research management activities build an international community of practice to promote new ways of recognising and adapting to energy issues, challenges and opportunities.*

- International Water Centre – <http://www.watercentre.org/>

*The International WaterCentre (IWC) provides education and training, applied research and knowledge services to implement a whole-of-water cycle approach and develop capacity in integrated water resource management.*

*Integrated water management approach for:*

- [Sustainable urban communities](#)
- [Healthy river basins](#)
- [Water, sanitation and hygiene](#)
- *Integrated water management*

*Our approach:*

- *acknowledges the environmental, ecological and human processes that water undergoes from catchment to coast*
- *clarifies and manages the multiple values of water*
- *considers the impacts of decisions systemically across environment, politics, law, science, culture, engineering, economics, health and society.*

*Our strength is in collaboration*

*Founded by four leading Australian universities and over 70 partners and collaborators world-wide, the IWC provides a breadth of expertise and experience rarely found in a single organisation.*

## Building, Planning and Transport

- Infrastructure Partnerships Australia – <http://www.infrastructure.org.au/>

*Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation's peak infrastructure body - formed in 2005 as a genuine and enduring policy partnership between Australia's governments and industry.*

*IPA's formation recognises that through innovation and reform, Australia can extract more from the infrastructure it's got, and invest more in the infrastructure we need.*

*Through our research and deep engagement with policymakers and industry, IPA seeks to capture best practice and advance complex reform options to drive up national economic prosperity and competitiveness.*

*Infrastructure is about more than balance sheets and building sites. Infrastructure is the key to how Australia does business, how we meet the needs of a prosperous economy and growing population and how we sustain a cohesive and inclusive society.*

*Infrastructure Partnerships Australia draws together the public and private sectors in a genuine partnership to debate the policy reforms and priority projects that will build Australia for the challenges ahead.*

- Laboratory for Visionary Architecture – <http://www.l-a-v-a.net/>

*LAVA explores frontiers that merge future technologies with the patterns of organisation found in nature and believes this will result in a smarter, friendlier, more socially and environmentally responsible future.*

*LAVA combines digital workflow, nature's structural principles and the latest digital fabrication technologies with the aim of achieving MORE WITH LESS: more (architecture) with less (material/energy/time/cost).*

*Structure, material and building skin are three areas LAVA believes that architecture can learn so much from nature. Projects incorporate intelligent systems and skins that can react to external influences such as air pressure, temperature, humidity, solar-radiation and pollution.*

*LAVA designs everything from pop up installations to master-plans and urban centres, from homes made out of PET bottles to 'reskinning' aging 60s icons, from furniture to hotels, houses and airports of the future.*

- Transport and Logistics Centre – <http://www.talc.com.au/index.php/main>

*TALC's primary interest in the policy arena is in policy development in matters of work organisation, skills, infrastructure and regulatory frameworks across transport and logistics. Our main focus is on intermediation as a form for policy development in government - Commonwealth, State and Local. Based on collaboration, empowerment and innovation in all things.*

*Governments and companies in many countries today find themselves in uncharted waters as they attempt to redefine their role, including how they relate to business strategies, shareholders and to citizens more broadly. In government there is currently serious questioning of what are the appropriate structures, institutions, processes and organisational relationships required in an environment placing much more emphasis on collaboration with partners within the public sector and also outside it.*

## **Education**

- Asia Education Foundation – <http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/default.asp>

*Asia Education Foundation (AEF) has been at the forefront of the promotion of Asia literacy for 20 years.*

*Today, AEF provides teachers, education leaders and school communities with innovative programs, curriculum resources and networks to support the achievement of [Asia literacy](#) for every young Australian. Asia literacy will equip our young people to be active and informed local and global citizens who can relate well to others and appreciate both social and cultural diversity.*

- New South Wales Institute for Educational Research - <http://www.nswier.edu.au/>

*The NSW Institute of Educational Research Inc. was founded in 1928. In 2008 the NSW IER celebrated its 80th year dedicated to encouraging study, research and service in education.*

*Through the year, the NSW IER conducts professional and scholarly meetings. It also contributes to the publication of a [national IER research journal](#) and an occasional Bulletin. Membership is open to people with a commitment to education and an interest in educational research. Teachers and new educational researchers are warmly encouraged to join.*

## Philosophy and Ethics

- CAPPE, Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics – <http://www.cappe.edu.au/>

*The Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE) is an Australian Research Council Special Research Centre. CAPPE commenced operations in 2000 and is the world's largest concentration of applied philosophers. Spanning three of Australia's most prestigious universities our purpose is to connect rigorous philosophical thinking with policy input, community discussion, and professional aims.*

*CAPPE aims to assist members of the community to make more ethically informed choices by making available the considerable resources of the rich tradition in philosophical theory, as well as other information, such as empirical research and the statement of fundamental human rights in international instruments of human rights.*

*CAPPE aims to combine frontier research in social and applied philosophy with close attention to the concrete problems and requirements of practitioners in the public sphere. It also draws on Charles Sturt University ([www.csu.edu.au](http://www.csu.edu.au)) and University of Melbourne ([www.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.unimelb.edu.au)) social and natural scientists, lawyers, economists and others to make up effective research teams. Our blend of depth in research and presence in the public sphere not only sets our work apart from otherwise comparable centres, but the interplay between these different elements improves the quality and relevance of the research and its impact on public life.*