



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## MEMORANDUM

**TO** Chair, Planning and Budget Committee

**DATE** 4 March 2003

**SUBJECT** Two Professorial Research Fellow Positions

**FROM** Professor Peter Dawkins  
Director and Ronald Henderson Professor  
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research  
x 45311

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Please find attached a proposal by the Melbourne Institute to establish two new Professorial Research Fellow positions at the Melbourne Institute.

Please contact me should you wish for any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Dawkins  
Director and Ronald Henderson Professor



MELBOURNE INSTITUTE  
of Applied Economic and Social Research

*Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, The University of Melbourne.*



## **PROPOSAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF 2 PROFESSORIAL RESEARCH FELLOW POSITIONS**

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### *The Proposal*

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research within the Faculty of Economics and Commerce proposes the appointment of two new Professorial Research Fellow positions within the Department.

It is proposed that the appointees will provide academic leadership to staff within the Melbourne Institute and contribute to the managerial and entrepreneurial leadership of the Institute.

### *The Melbourne Institute*

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research is a research only department within the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. It was established in 1962. It undertakes research in the areas of:-

- Labour Economics and Social Policy
- Applied Macroeconomics
- Industrial Economics
- Health and Education: Economic Analysis and Policy.

The annual external research income of the Melbourne Institute is currently about \$5m per annum, a very large amount for a research institute in its field.

The Melbourne Institute has an active postgraduate scheme and encourages Ph.D. supervision among its staff.

Its mission is to undertake high quality research in its areas of expertise and also to engage with the broader community, from business, government and community groups, and contribute strongly to public policy analysis, debate and development.

### *Academic Case for Appointment*

The Melbourne Institute currently has two appointments at Professorial level. First there is the Director, Professor Peter Dawkins, who is the Ronald Henderson Professor of Applied Economic and Social Research. Secondly, Professor Mark Wooden is a Professorial Fellow.

With the substantial growth in the size of the institute over the last three years (it has approximately doubled in income and staffing), the two Professors are called upon to undertake a substantial amount of administrative and managerial responsibilities, as well as providing academic leadership. One is the Director (and Head of Department) and the other is Director of a major multi-million

dollar contract with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, to run the national longitudinal survey of Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA). There is just one appointment at level D, Associate Professor David Johnson, who is the Deputy Director.

Given the size of the Department (now 38 staff including 31 academics) and that it has a higher proportion of its academic staff at junior levels than most Departments in the University. There is a strong need to bolster the academic leadership at Professorial level, to maintain the momentum of the Institute's research agenda, to broaden the expertise of the Professoriate, to provide adequate mentoring for junior academic staff, and to open up an even wider range of research opportunities for the institute than it currently has.

### ***Resources***

In addition to the external funding, which is on a rising trend and based on longer-term contracts than has historically been the case, it also receives substantial funding from the Faculty. Due largely to the Faculty's funding formula, which recognises research performance, the Melbourne Institute is receiving approximately \$900,000 from the Faculty this year, and this is on a rising trend.

When the current director was appointed in 1996, the Faculty's contribution to the Melbourne Institute's funds was \$150,000 per annum and the external funds were approximately \$1m. and were on shorter-term contracts. Now the Faculty funding is approximately \$900,000 per annum, and external research funding about \$5m, on longer contracts.

This year the Melbourne Institute budgets to make a surplus of \$300,000, to take its reserves to \$500,000.

### ***Proposed Conditions of Appointment***

It is proposed that the Professorial Fellowships be for three years in the first instance. The successful candidates would be reviewed annually under the performance development framework.