

Lunchtime series

Provocations and Inspirations

Solving Australia's productivity crisis

Ross Gittins AM FRSN FASSA

Economics Editor, *The Sydney Morning Herald*

Date: Tuesday 19 August 2025
12:15 pm for a 12:30 start.
Finishes 2:00 pm.

Venue: Union University and Schools Club, 25 Bent Street, Sydney (corner of Bent and Phillip Streets)

Registration: Registration at [this link](#) is required **before 2.00 pm on Tuesday 12 August 2025**. Numbers are limited.

Cost: \$75 (RSNSW or UUSC members); \$85 (non-members/guests). **Note:** *the cost has increased slightly as a warm meal will be served for lunch.*

Dress: Smart business casual (jacket preferred). **No denim.**

Solving Australia's productivity crisis

The ongoing theme of the luncheon series is to explore the issue of inequality in Australia. We are analysing this wicked, complex problem through exploring issues such as: How can we mitigate the consequences of climate change? Should the very rich continue to accumulate wealth at a much faster rate than the very poor? How can Australia pay for the levels of service expected by the community while maintaining its security in a rapidly changing, uncertain world? How can we better utilise resources and protect the environment for future generations? How can we introduce micro-and macro-economic reform leading to greater economic complexity and driving productivity improvements in a predominantly service-oriented economy?

The issue of productivity growth in Australia is now front-and-centre of the government's economic policy framework. Productivity improvement has been at a virtual standstill for the last decade and there is broad agreement that this has to change if Australia is to maintain its prosperity.

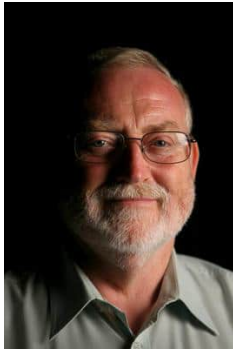
But the debate over what to do about productivity has been hijacked by too many people with axes to grind. Yet there are sensible conclusions to be drawn about the causes of our lack of productivity improvement and possible steps we can take to improve matters.

Ross Gittins, one of Australia's foremost economics commentators, will share his thoughts on this complex challenge.

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Lunchtime meeting series – Provocations and Inspirations...

About the speaker



Ross Gittins AM FRSN FASSA is one of Australia's leading economic commentators and the author of several books. He is columnist for The Age and has been economics editor of The Sydney Morning Herald since 1978. In 2008, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

He has been awarded honorary doctorates by Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University and his alma mater, the University of Newcastle.