



Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

Brotherhood of St Laurence Conference
Thursday 27 September 2007
Sofitel Melbourne



The economic and social imperative:

Tapping the potential of
disadvantaged Australians

Keynote speaker and Sambell Orator
Saul Eslake, *ANZ Chief Economist*

Australia is enjoying unprecedented prosperity. Yet while business is crying out for skilled workers, some of our most disadvantaged jobseekers still find it difficult to share in this prosperity.

However, there are effective and innovative employment strategies that tap the potential of people outside the labour market.

There is no better time to bring together social objectives of reducing poverty and disadvantage with economic objectives of increasing workforce participation.

This conference draws together government, business and community leaders in discussing these critical issues. It will highlight visionary models that are creating new pathways to workforce participation, filling gaps and, ultimately, breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

The economic and social imperative will highlight the link between good economic policy and good social policy.

Attendance is essential for government, industry, business and community leaders interested in best practice for skills development, workforce participation and recruitment.



Morning – Sustaining and sharing prosperity

Explores the shifts in the Australian economy and the potential for disadvantaged jobseekers to further boost economic productivity by filling labour and skills shortages.

- **Challenges in sustaining a strong economy that works for all**
Saul Eslake, *Chief Economist, ANZ*
- **Industry and the skills gap**
Wayne Kayler-Thomson, *Acting Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry - VECCI*
- **Participation and potential**
Tony Nicholson, *Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence*
- **Session moderator**
Evan Thornley, *Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for the National Reform Agenda and Innovation*

Afternoon – Pathways to employment

Showcases leading employment partnerships that are producing results for job seekers and the economy.

- **Early bird conference rates are available until 7 September**
\$275 government/business & \$165 community/student registration
- **Standard rates are**
\$330 government/business & \$187 community/student registration
All rates include GST
- **Register via www.bsl.org.au/events or phone 03 9483 1301**