

MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNOMICS

Can We Afford Small Government?

by Ian McAuley & Miriam Lyons

'Everybody knows governments are wasteful, incompetent and a drag on the economy. But if you're not sure that's true, read this book.'
—ROSS GITTINS

'Governomics shows that a market economy can only work when sustained by a strong and active public sector. It will inject some much-needed economic sanity into conversations on the role of government in Australia.' — JOHN QUIGGIN

WHAT DID THE PUBLIC SECTOR EVER DO FOR US?

People have good reason to demand decent public education and a well-funded health system, to yearn for an economy that doesn't trash the environment or for a smaller gap between rich and poor. Almost without exception, sound economics is on their side.

We've grown used to public debates that pit people and the planet against an abstract, distorted image of 'the economy', but it doesn't have to be this way. *Governomics* shows that an emaciated state is bad for business, and that standing up for government means standing up for a public sector that truly serves the public.

Ian McAuley has been an engineer in a manufacturing firm, a trade commissioner, a policy analyst and a manager in the federal Department of Industry, and more recently a lecturer in Public Sector Financial Management at the University of Canberra. He has worked on consultancies for Australian and foreign governments and for international agencies (the UN and the OECD). He is a regular contributor to *The Conversation* and *New Matilda*.

Miriam Lyons is an Australian policy analyst, writer and commentator. She was co-founder and executive director of the Centre for Policy Development, a public-interest think-tank. She has been a regular guest on the ABC shows *Q&A* and *The Drum*, has contributed to several media outlets and co-edited the books *Pushing Our Luck* and *More Than Luck*. Earlier roles include policy editing for *New Matilda*, researching freedom of speech in East Timor, and organising ideas festivals.

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Ian McAuley and Miriam Lyons will be available for interview during May.

For more information please contact:

Perri Palmieri at MUP
on 03 9342 0322 or 0406 998 030
or email perri.palmieri@unimelb.edu.au

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