

## Meet the *Economists* ...

### Chris Becker

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#### **Why did you decide to become an economist?**

I was at high school a long time ago (1980s) when there was a significant amount of social and economic reform in Australia – the exchange rate was floated; the labour market was deregulated; financial markets were liberalised and the Prices and Incomes Accord, negotiated between the government and the trade union movement, was an overlay that made these big economic adjustments possible. My economics teacher was an inspirational exponent of the policies and had a big influence on how I explain economics to people today. The possibility of being part of such reforms and improvements in the future were an attractive proposition for a 16-year-old me.

#### **How did you become an economist?**

I studied economics at high school in Years 10–12 and was lucky enough to be accepted into Monash University, where I completed an undergraduate degree, an honours degree and then a master's degree. I taught at universities, first in Melbourne and then around the country. Economics has opened the door for me to work at investment banks, the RBA, the IMF, the World Bank, research institutes and central banks around the world. As it turns out, I am still learning.

#### **What do you do from day to day?**

On a day-to-day basis I help the RBA implement domestic monetary policy operations. The team I work in is partly operational but also conducts analysis and research on financial markets. I also continue to consult to international organisations in areas of expertise related to financial markets.

#### **What's the best thing about your job?**

The best thing is working in a team that informs and influences important policy decisions. There are many talented people who are junior at the RBA and have valuable contributions to make.

#### **And when you're not at work?**

When I am not at work you will find me on my motorcycle, in the bush in my four-wheel drive, or hunched over a guitar playing old blues songs.

# Explore economics.



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