

Meet the *Economists* ...

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Why did you decide to become an economist?

I was always interested in doing work that would help people and make a meaningful contribution to the world around me. Becoming an economist happened a bit by accident if I'm honest. The more I studied economics, the more I realised and appreciated that it was providing me with a tool set for understanding the world around me, why decisions are made and how decisions can be influenced.

How did you become an economist?

I first started studying economics in Year 11 and 12 at high school and found it fascinating to learn about the world around me and why things were happening. I also really enjoyed science and maths, so I decided to study natural resource economics at university because it would combine all of my interests. I loved that economics could be applied and used to solve real world problems, so when I finished my studies I applied for a position in the RBA's graduate program. After a few years of work, the RBA supported me to complete my master's degree in economics on a part-time basis.

What do you do from day to day?

I have had a lot of different roles at the RBA but, at the moment, a large part of my role involves

meeting with senior executives of companies in Australia. I speak with them about what has been happening at their company, what has been driving their decision-making processes and what they expect conditions will be like over the year ahead. It is really fascinating because we meet with such a diverse range of businesses from all sectors of the economy. There are six economists in my team and we work closely with our colleagues in the other state offices to gather insights that can help to inform the Reserve Bank Board's understanding of the economy. The other part of my role is focused on looking after the RBA's work on climate change.

What's the best thing about your job?

There are two things: the work and the people. The work I get to be part of is very engaging, challenging and diverse and I love that, no matter what stage of my career I've been in, I've always been able to learn something new. I also get to work with a lot of really intelligent people who are motivated by serving the broader community.

And when you're not at work?

I love to be pretty active outside of work – I live near the beach so I am usually somewhere close to the ocean or hiking in national parks. Otherwise I am at the gym, playing netball or touch football.

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