Be Like Gough: 75 Radical Ideas to Transform the Australian Academy

International Women’s Day Staff Breakfast - 8 March 2017
Professor Sharon Bell
IPA(2012)

Introduce fee competition to Australian universities
End all corporate welfare and subsidies by closing the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
Reintroduce voluntary student unionism at universities
Means test tertiary student loans
Privatise the CSIRO...
Is this like Gough?

Under a Labor Government, Commonwealth spending on schools and teacher training will be the fastest expanding sector of budget expenditure.

This must be done, not just because the basic resource of this nation is the skills of its people, but because education is the key to equality of opportunity.

Sure – we can have education on the cheap......but our children will be paying for it for the rest of their lives.

We will abolish fees at universities and colleges of advanced education. We believe that a student’s merit rather than a parent’s wealth should decide who should benefit from the community’s vast financial commitment to tertiary education.

(Gough Whitlam, 1972)
Does the Australian Academy need to transform?
The Dominant Gender Equity Narrative

Norton 2014
Rethinking the Dominant Narrative

Norton 2014

Dawkins

A Fair Chance for All
Participation and Seniority

Female representation by student completions and academic level, 2011 Source: ACER DIISRTE Higher Education Statistics Collection, customised data, 2011
Is a radical agenda needed?
Why So Few?

Bettina Cass put this bluntly:

...the academic career itself is predicated on the traditional male lifestyle—a lifestyle in which the single minded dedication to competitive work is bastioned by a domestic support system ...usually termed wives.
Key Structural Issues

Employment, employment, employment
...and then
Organisational culture – cumulative disadvantage
We need 75 radical ideas

To address the university ‘gig economy’ and to achieve equity for our large contingent workforce.
What're you doing?
I'm thinking inside the box.

Are you crazy?! No one thinks inside the box anymore. You've got to think outside the box.

It's got to be in your résumé & on all your references. "Thinks outside the box."

It's nice in here.
Thank you