

In *Economics for Life*, Ian Harper shares many insights gained from his professional career as an economist during an exciting period of world economic history.

Writing this book from his perspective as one of Australia's best-known economists and as a practising Christian, Ian demonstrates why economics is a good servant but a bad master. While the discipline of economics makes a valuable contribution to clear thinking about important questions that focus on humanity's material condition, it is not a philosophy for the whole of life – and was never intended to be.

This book will appeal to a broad range of readers, from those sceptical of economics to aspiring students of economics and those already involved in the profession.

Recently there has been much commentary in the press ridiculing Christians and economists. In this honest and forthright book, Ian Harper shows that economics provides a very useful but imperfect framework to explore and understand earthly affairs, whereas Christianity addresses deep spiritual and moral issues. Harper shows through his experiences in academia, public policy, fund raising for worthy causes, and his conversion to Christianity, that one can be an honourable Christian economist. This book should be read by all those fashionable critics of religion and economics, so that they may expand their intellectual horizons.

Frank Milne

Bank of Montreal Professor of Economics and Finance, Queen's University, Ontario.

The trouble with Christians is that their hearts are in the right place but too often their heads are not. Even leading churchmen seem to think that market economics is a conspiracy against the poor. Ian Harper sets out why this is almost always wrong. He explains where economics can be really helpful, gives us the low-down on important episodes of Australian public policy, and weaves the whole together with the tale of his own conversion to Christianity.

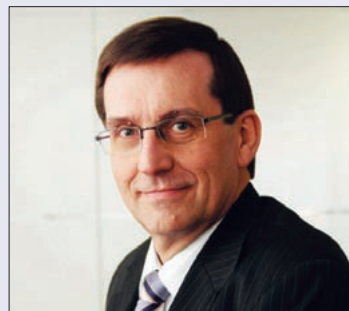
Ian Harper makes the case for economics simply and forcefully – the clarity of the writing is simply outstanding. His book needs to be read by scoffers and churchgoers alike and should be on the syllabus of every theological college.

Eric Jones

Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University and Former Professorial Fellow, Melbourne Business School.



"My point is that economics is for life, but not for all of life."



Professor Ian Harper has worked closely with governments, banks, large corporations and leading professional services firms at the highest level. Ian is sought after as a commentator and public speaker on economic and financial issues, and has been described as 'one of those relatively rare academics who can communicate extremely well with both the business community and the academic community'. He is now a Director of Access Economics and heads the Melbourne office of the firm.

ECONOMICS FOR LIFE
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An economist reflects on the meaning of life, money, and what really matters
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