

The Honourable Peter K Reith was a senior Cabinet Minister in the Australian Government from 1996 to 2001 and then a Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development from 2003 to 2009.

He was a key figure in Australian politics throughout the 1990's promoting economic reform in taxation and labour market policies and then played a major role in the implementation of the Howard Government's reform agenda after its initial election win in 1996.

Peter Reith was born in Melbourne in 1950, educated at Brighton Grammar School and took out degrees in law and economics at Monash University and practiced law in both Melbourne and rural Victoria. He served as a local government councillor and pursued his interest in education by establishing Newhaven College, an independent coeducational day school on Phillip Island.

He was first elected to the Federal Parliament in a by-election in December 1982. Before having the chance to be sworn in he lost the seat three months later in March 1983. He was re-elected in December 1984 and first sworn in as an MP in February 1985. As Shadow Attorney he ran the Coalition's highly successful defence of the Constitution against the ALP's referendum proposals in 1988. The "No" votes were the largest ever recorded in a federal referendum. From 1990 to 1993 he was Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Treasurer. During this period he was a major contributor to the development and then public presentation of "Fightback", the Coalition's policy platform for the 1993 election.

In March 1996, upon the Coalition winning government, he was appointed Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service and Leader of the House of Representatives. In the first 12 months of the Howard Government he secured the implementation of the Coalition's industrial relations policy and within the first 16 months introduced into the Parliament a new Bill providing for the overhaul of the Australian Public Service. In July 1997 Mr. Reith's portfolio was renamed Workplace Relations and Small Business. Within four months Mr. Reith delivered a comprehensive set of reforms known as the "New Deal Fair Deal" package. Small business groups described it as the best small business package in over 20 years.

In October 1997 Mr. Reith assumed the additional responsibility of maritime reform. His responsibilities included the waterfront, coastal and blue water shipping and associated issues.

Following the Coalition's re-election in October 1998, Mr. Reith's responsibilities were expanded to include Employment. By December 1998, with his Ministerial colleague Mr. Tony Abbott, Mr. Reith announced a package of reforms to "Job Network". In May 1999, he announced a new Indigenous Employment Policy.

In August 1999 Mr. Reith secured the passage of legislation on youth wage rates and the promotion of employment opportunities for young people.

In December 2000, the Prime Minister announced Mr. Reith's appointment as the Minister for Defence.

In the UK, he was a member of the Independent Tax Reform Commission, chaired by Lord Forsyth, and established by the UK Conservative Party to report on tax reform, including a flat tax. The Report was released in 2007.

Mr. Reith joined the EBRD in August 2003 as Executive Director. Mr. Reith became the Alternate Director as from 1 August 2006 for a period of 3 years. He successfully proposed that Australia exit its shares in the EBRD although the Rudd Government reversed their decision to implement that recommendation in the wake of the 2008 global downturn.

Mr. Reith lives in Victoria where he has recently established a small farm growing Angus cattle.

John Lloyd

Hon John Lloyd, Director Workplace Reform and Productivity, Institute of Public Affairs

John Lloyd's career is highlighted by several senior appointments in the field of workplace relations.

He has held following positions:

- * Australian Building and Construction Commissioner – 2005-10
- * Senior Deputy President, Australian Industrial Relations Commission – 2004-05
- * Deputy Secretary, Federal Department Employment and Workplace Relations – 2001-04
- * CEO, WA Department of Productivity and Labour Relations – 1996-2001
- * Executive Director, Victorian Department of Business and Employment – 1992-96
- * Member National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
- * Member Comcare Board
- * Head of Australian Delegation International Labour Conference, Geneva

John is currently Director, Workplace Reform and Productivity, Institute of Public Affairs.

John has also served on the boards of a number of organisations attending to the needs of Australians with cerebral palsy.

He was awarded the Australian Public Service Medal for service in the field of workplace relations reform, particularly in building and construction industry.

Professor Judith Sloan

Director of Westfield Group Limited

Judith Sloan is an economist and company director. She worked for many years at Flinders University of South Australia, becoming Director of the National Institute of Labour Studies. She has held a number of government appointments, including Commissioner of the Productivity Commission; Commissioner of the Australian Fair Pay Commission; and Deputy Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

She has sat on the boards of a number of companies including: Mayne Nickless; SGIO Insurance; Santos and Primelife, where she was also Chairman.

She is currently an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne; Chairman of National Seniors Australia; Director of Westfield Group Limited; and board member of the Lowy Institute for International Policy. She is a regular contributor to The Australian newspaper.