

Special Issue - Conference in Memory of Paul Miller

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Paul Miller, one of Australia's most important contributors to the Economics profession, in general, and to Labour Economics, in particular, died on 27 November 2013 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He is sadly missed by all that knew him and those who valued his work.

There have been several tributes to Paul including those of his close friends and colleagues (see, in particular, Bloch, Butler, Chiswick and Tyers 2014, Chiswick 2014; and Leigh 2013). I could do no better than to refer you to these tributes and I could not possibly do better than them in listing and praising Paul's prolific contribution to the profession. I would just like to mention here the immense value he has added to labour economics, particularly in Australia, and his unstinting support of the *AJLE* as a member of the editorial board and a referee since the journal's inception. All connected to the *AJLE*, myself, fellow editors, editorial board, authors and readers, will miss him greatly.

In order to mark the sadness of Paul's passing, but also to celebrate his life's achievements, a number of his friends and colleagues organised a celebration "Honouring Paul Miller". This celebration took place over two days on 11 and 12 November 2014 at The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. His long time co-author Barry Chiswick was to deliver the opening address but was unable to attend through ill health. He did, however, provide a few words by way of an opening address in absentia which are included in this issue. Bob Gregory stepped into the role of keynote speaker and provided an excellent presentation based on a chapter on migration policy (Gregory 2014) in Chiswick and Miller (2015). He also looked back on his association with Paul as one of his first students and one of the first in Australia to access census data or regression analysis of immigrant and female labour market outcomes. He particularly pointed out that Paul and Barry were pioneers in developing the world wide interest in language as a means of immigrant labour market integration. Facility in the receiving country language is now widely recognized as being more important than the usual measures of labour market skills.

Bob's address was followed by dinner for friends, family and colleagues – an opportunity to share personal reminiscences of Paul. A program of papers was presented and attendees were invited to present or act as discussants at the sessions.

The best papers have been chosen, after the usual rigorous refereeing process, for publication in this Special Paul Miller Tribute issue of the *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*. They include, fittingly, papers co-authored with Paul himself,

papers by old colleagues and by relative newcomers to the profession. However, they have in common two of the themes for which Paul was best known, namely, the economics of education and of migration. I'm sure Paul would have been pleased to be remembered in this way.

References

- Bloch, H., Butler D., Chiswick, B. and Tyers, R. (2014), 'A Tribute to Paul Miller', *Economic Record*, Volume 90, Issue 288, March, pp 135-136.
- Chiswick, B. (2014), 'Obituary – Paul Miller (1955- 2013)', *Australian Journal of Labour Economics*, Volume 17, Number 1, pp 3-4.
- Gregory, R. (2014), 'A Down-Under Perspective on International Migration', in Chiswick, B. and Miller (eds), *Handbook of the Economics of International Migration*, Horth Holland.
- Leigh, A. (2013), 'Honouring Two Great Australian Economists', speech to Federal Parliament, available at <http://www.andrewleigh.com/5335>.