



HARVARD CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Top Australian public servants win Harvard scholarships

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The secretary of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Mr Blair Comley PSM, and the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, Mr Martin Hoffman, are the inaugural recipients of the Sir James Wolfensohn Public Service Scholarship.

The scholarships will allow Mr Comley and Mr Hoffman to undertake an executive education program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2013.

With the support of the former chairman of the World Bank, Jim Wolfensohn, the Harvard Club of Australia established the Wolfensohn Scholarship to help promote the development and delivery of good public policy.

Mr Blair Comley, 43, has been the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency since February 2011. He was previously the Deputy Secretary of this Department, and has also held a wide range of senior roles in the Commonwealth Treasury.

Mr Martin Hoffman, 48, has been Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism since July 2010. Before joining the Commonwealth public service in March 2009, he held a range of positions in the private sector including as Chief Executive Officer of NineMSN.

The two inaugural recipients were chosen from a wide field of candidates, all nominated by a Commonwealth, State or Territory Department or agency head. A shortlist of candidates was interviewed by a panel of Harvard University alumni including the Hon Nick Greiner AC, Dr Tracey Batten (CEO, St Vincent's Health Australia), Ms Leslie Loble (CEO, Office of Education, NSW Government), Mr Zeke Solomon AM (Partner, Allens) and Ms Naomi Flutter (Director, Deutsche Bank and Vice President, Harvard Club of Australia).

Mr Wolfensohn said: "Government has probably never been more important to business and society than it is today. In this context, I see enormous value in senior Australian policy makers attending the world's leading public policy school, to undertake a course of study alongside their global peers. Attending Harvard had a big impact on my life. At the Harvard Kennedy School, they will make connections and learn skills that will be invaluable for the rest of their careers – and we will all be beneficiaries.

Harvard Club of Australia Vice President Naomi Flutter said: "When we established the Wolfensohn Scholarship, we thought it would resonate among public servants. We were surprised by the extent to which this was the case.

Ms Flutter said, "Choosing the inaugural recipients from an impressive group of senior public servants was, unsurprisingly, a very challenging task. The applications reminded us of the many varied and crucially important public sector agencies. Blair and Martin are exceptional public servants who have already made a substantial contribution to Australian public policy, and we are confident that they will continue to positively impact the lives of Australians for a long time.

Contact

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