
The 2018 Conference on Labour, Employment and Work, at Victoria University of Wellington aims to tackle some of the big issues facing employers and employees, including gender equity, health and wellbeing, and the future of technology in the workplace.

Organised biennially by the University’s Centre for Labour, Employment and Work (CLEW), the conference was established more than 30 years ago and brings together leading labour market scholars, researchers of work and workplaces, and policymakers. The theme of the 2018 conference is ‘Work and wellbeing’ which will be explored by the two keynote speakers from very different perspectives.

We are very pleased to have the Minister of Finance, the Rt Hon Grant Robertson opening the Conference. The Government has committed to a budget that puts wellbeing at the centre and the Minister’s strong interest in future work and the impact on wellbeing makes him an ideal person to launch the Conference.

Marian Baird, Professor of Gender and Employment Relations from the University of Sydney will give the Martin Jenkins keynote address that explores the four ‘life stages’ of women’s employment, and equality gaps in working hours, pay and superannuation. Last year Professor Baird was named in Apolitical’s Top 100 Most Influential People in Gender Equality list and she is recognised internationally as a leader in research on women and work.

The MBIE key note address on the second day of the conference is Göran Roos, a Swedish academic and businessman. His address focuses on what is required in work futures in the face of digital and climate changes – ‘Moving to a digital low resource footprint future – implications for work’.

The papers submitted for the conference include topics on health, safety and wellbeing - attitudes to health and safety, mental health at work, and workplace structures for health and wellbeing at work; Gender equity in the workplace - pay equity, occupational segmentation, and workplace provisions that support gender equity; employment relations and institutions including inequality and skills and training.

The Conference is due to be held on November 29 and 30 at Victoria University’s Pipitea Campus (Rutherford House). Information is available on the website.