



THE 2014 PUBLIC FINANCE GREAT FESTIVE DEBATE

GOVERNMENT ECONOMICS NETWORK AND CHAIR IN PUBLIC FINANCE PRESENT:

THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THE CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA IS A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY

The Victoria University of Wellington Chair in Public Finance and the Government Economics Network invite you to join them at a light-hearted Christmas debate. This will be followed by refreshments.

Andy Williams reckoned “Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year.” Yet while a fine singer he was no economist and so at this event two teams will debate the lessons that economics provides on this season. Given research published in the American Economic Review (Waldfoegel, 1993) showing the deadweight losses of Christmas gifts, should people simply give cash instead? What rights should people who don’t enjoy Christmas (like the Grinch) have to negotiate this season away? And, more generally, is the Christmas extravaganza a waste of time and money?

FOR:



**Eric Crampton,
Head of Research,
New Zealand Initiative**



**Patrick Nolan,
Principal Adviser,
New Zealand
Productivity
Commission**

AGAINST:



**Anne-Marie Brook,
Principal Adviser,
The Treasury**



**Bronwyn Croxson,
Chief Economist,
Ministry of Health**

Chaired by Professor Norman Gemmell, Chair of Public Finance

11 December 2014

3.00 to 4.00 pm followed by refreshments

G.02 and G.03, Ground Floor, MBIE, 15 Stout Street

RSVP by 4 December to libby.wight@vuw.ac.nz or call 04 463 9656