

Michael Fisher

Australian Council of Trade Unions

The Politics of Reform

‘No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable.’ ADAM SMITH

‘To see what is in front of one’s nose needs a constant struggle.’ GEORGE ORWELL

- No definition of an adequate retirement income
- Insufficient mandatory contribution rates
- No action on annuities
- Pensions remain a political football

Alternatives to 'Leaky Buckets'

- Inertia & asymmetric information → fees
- Australia: 2 per cent underperformance by for-profit funds relative to not-for-profits
- Don't need private companies to run large, successful, low-cost, efficient DC funds

A Collective Future?

- Cooper: 'Collective pension schemes'
- The Netherlands as model?
- Intergenerational risk sharing
- Further research and debate needed...