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| Photo for website bio | ***Dr Peter Varela***   * + - 1. Qualifications   PhD in Economics, Australian National University, 2017  Bachelor of Economics (Hons), Australian National University, 2009  Bachelor of Actuarial Studies, Australian National University, 2008   * + - 1. Contact   E [peter.varela@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.varela@anu.edu.au) |

I am an Australian economist with experience working at the intersection of the public, private and academic sectors. I am comfortable working on all aspects of economic research projects, including technical analysis, drafting in both technical and non-technical language, communication strategies and project management.

My main strength is my ability to place empirical analysis within a normative policy framework.

My current research focus is on the economics of migration and on the join tax filing behaviour of couples. However, as shown by the projects listed below, I enjoy working on a wide range of topics.

Professional employment history

* + Visiting Researcher at Columbia University (2022 to present)
  + Australian Treasury - Tax Analysis Division (2019 to 2022)
  + The Centre for International Economics (2017 to 2019)
  + PhD scholar at the ANU (2014-2017)
  + Research Fellow at the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute (2014 to present in various part-time and full-time roles)
  + Research Economist at the Productivity Commission (2010 – 2014)

Awards, and Scholarships

* 2016 — Recipient of an Endeavour Scholarship to visit the Office of Tax Policy Research at the University of Michigan
* 2015 — Visiting Researcher at the Melbourne Institute for Social and Economic Policy Research
* 2009 — Awarded the Economic Society Prize for Economics IV (Honours) for the highest mark in economics honours in 2009
* 2009 — Awarded the Bob Gregory Honours Scholarship
* 2008 — Awarded a Summer Research Scholarship at the University of South Australia
* 2007 — Awarded the Undergraduate Prize in Agricultural and Resource Economics

Referee

### Professor Robert Breunig

* Director of the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute
* (612) 6125 2148
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| Selected research Projects | |  |
| Institution | Title | Description and year |
| Columbia University | Predicting the economic outcomes of migrants | 2023 - Running regressions in MADIP to understand the key factors that predict economic success amongst migrants. |
|  | Household tax filing behaviour of couples | 2023 - Using the ALIFE household links file to understand how filing behaviour changes when couples are formed. |
| Treasury | The lifetime fiscal impact of the Australian permanent migration program | 2022 - This project builds a large demographic model to predict how migrant contribute to taxes and government services over the long term.  Working paper available [here](https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-220773), |
|  | Distributional incidence of GST exemptions | 2020 - Published as a Tax Benchmark and Variation feature article [here](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-01/complete_tbvs_web.pdf). |
| Tax and Transfer policy Institute | The taxation of savings in Australia, Tax and Transfer Policy Institute Policy Paper. | 2020 - This project compares the theory of optimal taxation of savings with the existing Australia tax system.  Paper available [here](https://taxpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/uploads/taxstudies_crawford_anu_edu_au/2020-07/20271_anu_-_ttpi_policy_report-ff2.pdf). |
|  | Development of the AusTaxPolicy Blog | 2014 - When the TTPI launched this blog in 2014, I set up the Wordpress shell and communicated with authors to ask for article contributions. I also wrote several [articles](https://www.austaxpolicy.com/author/peter-varela/) for this blog. |
| The Centre for International Economics | Estimating the impact of the NSW container deposit scheme on container beverage consumption | 2018 - This project uses Neilson Homescan data and a fixed effects research design to estimate the reduction in beverage consumption generated by the introduction of a 10 cent per container refundable deposit in NSW.  Paper available [here](https://www.thecie.com.au/publications-archive/nsw-container-deposit-scheme). |
| PhD Dissertation | An inequality deflator for Australia | 2017 - This uses the implicit trade-off between efficiency and equity in the Australian tax system as a benchmark for incorporating distributional impacts in cost-benefit analysis.  Working paper available [here](https://taxpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/publication/ttpi-working-papers/11304/inequality-deflator-australia). |
|  | Do men claim more deductions than women on their tax returns? | 2017 - This paper uses Oaxaca-Blinder and DiNardo-Fortin-Lemieux decompositions, to show that men claim more deductions than women (in similar economic circumstances).  Working paper available [here](https://crawford.anu.edu.au/publication/ttpi-working-papers/11011/gender-deduction-gap). |
| Productivity Commission | Disability Care and Support - Productivity Commission Inquiry Report | 2011 - This project laid the foundation for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.  Inquiry report available [here](https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/disability-support/report). |
|  | An ageing Australia: Preparing for the future. | 2013 - This analysis follows a similar framework to the Intergenerational Report, using a demographic model to understand how demographic changes will impact the Australian economy over the coming decades.  Inquiry report available [here](https://www.pc.gov.au/research/completed/ageing-australia#:~:text=A%20report%20by%20the%20Productivity,budgets%20of%20all%20Australian%20governments.). |