



Politics, Inequality and the Australian Welfare State After Liberalisation

By Ben Spies-Butcher

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A must-read book about how neoliberalism has made Australia less equal and the welfare system is more brutal. This book also explores policies and strategies to make a more equal Australia.

Neoliberalism has transformed work, welfare, and democracy. However, its impacts, and its future, are more complex than we often imagine. Alongside growing inequality, social spending has been rising. Medicare was entrenched alongside privatization. How do we understand this contradictory politics, and what opportunities are there to advance equality? This book takes the three big drivers of inequality – conditional and stingy payments, marketized and privatized social services, and rapidly expanding and unstable financial markets and explores how inequality has been contested. Alongside the rise of the market, it reveals the building blocks of a more egalitarian order, built on universal demands and novel policy models, and advanced by the growing numbers of paid and unpaid workers delivering care.

Readership

Primarily, the academic audience is in social science and political economy, both in Australia and internationally. It will also be of interest to those engaged in policy debates around social policy and inequality and Australian politics.

Contents

Tables and Figures; Prelude; Chapter 1 Politics Reconstructed; Chapter 2 Liberalisation in Australia; Chapter 3 Residualising Welfare; Chapter 4 Marketising Welfare; Chapter 5 Financialising the Life Course; Chapter 6: Hybrid Policy Making; Chapter 7: Challenging Liberalised Welfare; References

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Ben Spies-Butcher is an Associate Professor of Economy and Society at Macquarie University. He has published and commented widely on Australian politics, economics, and inequality.

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