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I am delighted to announce the 2011 IQ2 popular debate series, a project of St James Ethics Centre supported by AMP. These thought provoking debates will be held in City Recital Hall Angel Place in Sydney and Melbourne Town Hall in Melbourne and will be recorded for later viewing. The Melbourne debates are a collaboration between St James Ethics Centre and The Wheeler Centre.

The subscription price is \$135* for the Sydney season's five debate series at the beautiful City Recital Hall Angel Place. Single tickets are \$32*[^], so all up you save \$25. The subscription package is available through [Sydney Subscription](#) until 11 May or by calling 02 8256 2222 and quoting "IQ2 Subscription". So get cracking - it's *unarguably* one of Sydney's best night's out.
* Additional fees may apply. [^]\$22 for concession.

SYDNEY

Tuesday 10 May **All drugs should be legalised** [Buy tickets!](#)

The use of mind-altering substances has been part of the human experience for millennia. Some people urge tighter restrictions on all recreational drugs as the cure for social ills linked to their use and abuse. Others argue that all drugs should be legal - subject only to prudent regulation.

Thursday 16 June **WikiLeaks is a force for good** [Buy tickets!](#)

US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously opined that "sunlight is the best disinfectant". Yet even the liberal democracies have claimed that sometimes they require a place in the shade - condemning WikiLeaks for publishing their confidential information.

Tuesday 26 July **If we keep populating we will perish** [Buy tickets!](#)

While some wish to grow the nation to spur economic development, others fear that the national population has already exceeded the 'carrying capacity' of our land. Should humanity work actively to reduce its numbers, or leave nature to restore the balance?

Tuesday 6 September **Atheists are wrong** [Buy tickets!](#)

Atheists have been quick to point to the evils done in the name of religion and to claim that their criticism of religion is grounded in the demands of reason. Their opponents have championed faith as a source of inspiration and as an essential aspect of the human condition. However, beyond rhetorical skirmishes, in the end, just one fundamental question must be answered: does God exist?

Tuesday 11 October **Democracy is failing the planet** [Buy tickets!](#)

As the challenges facing the Earth grow in scope and complexity, there is a nagging concern that the world's democracies will fail to respond as they should. Despite this, there is an enduring assumption that democracy should be preferred to all other political systems. But is this assumption anchored in a dangerous illusion?

MELBOURNE

Monday 14 March **Both major parties are failing the Australian people** [Watch podcast!](#)

Many people like to recall a time when politics was a matter of principle and the major parties were animated by a commitment to great political ideals; a time when politicians of all stripes worked for the public good. People contrast this earlier time with today's political climate in which the major parties seem willing to do 'whatever it takes' to secure power. The numbers seem to tell the story, with membership of the major parties in terminal decline. However, are we nostalgic for a time that never existed? Are the major parties maligned without good cause?

Tuesday 24 May **Public funding of private education is unconscionable** [Buy tickets!](#)

The parents of students attending private schools pay taxes. So, why should their children be denied a share of the education dollar? Yet, every dollar provided to a private school is a dollar not available to invest in public schools. Where should we invest public funds - and according to what set of principles might we decide without prompting envy and division?

Thursday 28 July **There is no justification for risking Australian lives in Afghanistan** [Buy tickets!](#)

As each name is added to the growing list of Australians killed serving in Afghanistan, the government assures the nation that the sacrifice in lives has been for a good cause and in the national interest. But what is the national interest that justifies such a terrible cost? Some believe that the price must be paid in the service of national causes. Yet, others find no consolation in claims of national interest; condemning the loss of Australian lives far from home.

Thursday 15 September **We should all be drinking recycled water by 2015**

Australia is the driest continent on Earth and Melbourne will continue to grow. For as long as this remains true, there will be increasing pressure to provide, from limited resources, a secure supply of water for the city. Is drinking recycled water the answer? As a matter of policy, should such misgivings about consuming treated effluent be set aside - in favour of a solution that, if nothing else, may be the least bad option available?

Tuesday 15 November **The Catholic Church is a force for good in the world**

For more than two millennia, the Catholic Church has been the author and repository of some of the highest ideals of humanity. Yet, as humanity is flawed, so is the Church. However, do these dark chapters in the Church's history unfairly obscure the light? Or is the Catholic Church simply the most ancient of wolves in sheep's clothing?

We look forward to seeing you at these topical and entertaining events.

Kind regards,

Dr Simon Longstaff
Executive Director, St James Ethics Centre and Chair, Intelligence Squared Australia Debates
Board Member, Global Reporting Initiative

www.iq2oz.com
www.ethics.org.au