

st mary's women

## EMILY POOLE ('00) Senior Advisor (Economist)



*"St Mary's gave me the confidence to walk into any room and expect to be treated on my merits rather than being defined by my gender."*

As a Senior Advisor at the Australian Treasury, Emily's role is not one that you would necessarily think of as having a part to play in the wellbeing of the nation of Australia. However, it is quite the contrary; her role, albeit invisible in many ways, is a central element to the nation's wellbeing, which was confirmed for her during the global financial crisis. Now, in a different crisis, Emily has another significant role to play.

***Where has life after St Mary's taken you? Was there a defining moment when you decided on the pathway you wanted your career to take?***

Life after St Mary's initially took me to Sydney for over a decade, working as an economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA). While I always had a strong interest in public policy, working at the RBA in the midst of the global financial crisis and watching the response of the senior leadership, cemented my belief in the central (often invisible), role that economists in the public sector can play in supporting the wellbeing of the people of Australia. Having subsequently returned to Perth, meeting my husband and having my first child, I am currently continuing my career in economic policymaking with the Australian Treasury, based out of their Perth office.

***How do you think St Mary's prepared you for life after school?***

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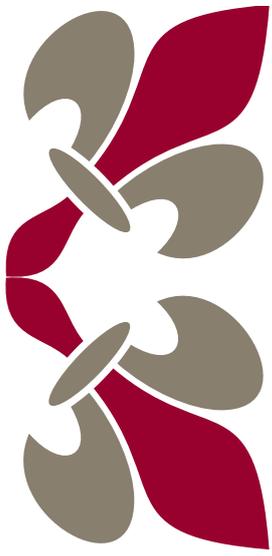
***Keeping connected has never been more important than in the last few months. What has been your experience of living and working through the COVID-19 crisis?***

Life during COVID-19 has been hectic! Work demands have never been higher and occurring at the same time as adapting to working from home and toddler-wrangling without the release of playgrounds or playdates. My role involves understanding the implications of the Coronavirus response on the economy and well-being of the Australian people. In these rapidly changing times, it's been a particularly exciting and challenging time to contribute to the analysis and forecasts that inform government policy.

***Who has been your biggest influence?***

My family.





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## ***What accomplishment are you most proud of?***

Completing my Master of Public Affairs degree at Princeton University. The thought of studying in the US never crossed my mind growing up, and I certainly would not have believed you if you had told me that I would one day attend the same university as a number of Nobel laureates. However, the impossible became possible when I received a postgraduate study scholarship from the RBA and followed in the footsteps of several colleagues to Princeton. It was an amazing two years.

## ***What is your fondest memory of your time at St Mary's?***

It's probably a tie between the time there were male streakers at assembly (Mrs Thomson's face!) and general memories of sitting in maths and science classes surrounded by friends that I remain close to 20 years later.

## ***Three pieces of advice for current St Mary's students.***

1. Keep your options open and seize opportunities that arise in your career, even if they take you in an unexpected direction.
2. Treasure your family and friends - your career will not give you hugs or look after you when you're struggling.
3. There's nothing wrong with being a nerd - your time will come!

