**Transcript – Andrew Robb**

Growing up in regional Australia and then in the Northern suburbs can’t be separated from being one of nine children. Those mix of things probably had a couple of major effects on me firstly I had a large measure of personal responsibility for my own life. I think I’ve always wanted at least subconsciously to prove that people with that sort of background can achieve as much as anyone else. Well, I’d never thought you know that I was heading to a career in politics really I started off as an animal health officer and then an agriculture economist and then I ran the National Farmers Federation but then when I was approached to run the campaign side of the Liberal party I’d become very interested during my time as running the National Farmers Federation in the policy debate that was happening at the time and there really was a time when the world went global and we either opened up as an economy or we stayed highly regulated and I was very involved and committed to opening up Australia to take advantage of the opportunities for growth. That led me to take the job as Campaign Director of the liberal party for the ’93 and ’96 campaigns I was Federal Director, ran the party because I wanted to influence the policy direction. I’ve run companies and you employ a couple of hundred people and you’ve got jobs for people and making money for shareholders and that’s satisfying but it goes nowhere near being closely involved in decisions that can materially impact for the good on your fellow citizens. For forty three years I had denied to myself much less anyone else that um, that I had a depressive condition from the age of twelve. I saw that even with the modicum of um, of public attention on my announcement that it had an effect on lots of people who seemed to present then to psychiatrists for some help. La Trobe had significant impacts on my life, um, a profound one in many respects, I went from being a C grade student as I had been through year 12, through my agricultural course before I did economics at La Trobe, a C grade student I went on to gain a first class honours. Another lasting memory of La Trobe which I often think of is the way in which that experience instilled in me, especially through the influence of a couple of important lecturers, the confidence and the critical mind and the self-esteem to put my hand up for many of the various jobs that I’ve enjoyed throughout my career.