

VICTORIA/TASMANIA PROMOTING EXCELLENCE NETWORK

Creative Forms of Teaching Workshop

Thursday 6 November 2014
Victoria University
City Convention Centre
Level 12, 300 Flinders St, Melbourne

Professor Stephen Barkoczy
Faculty of Law, Monash University

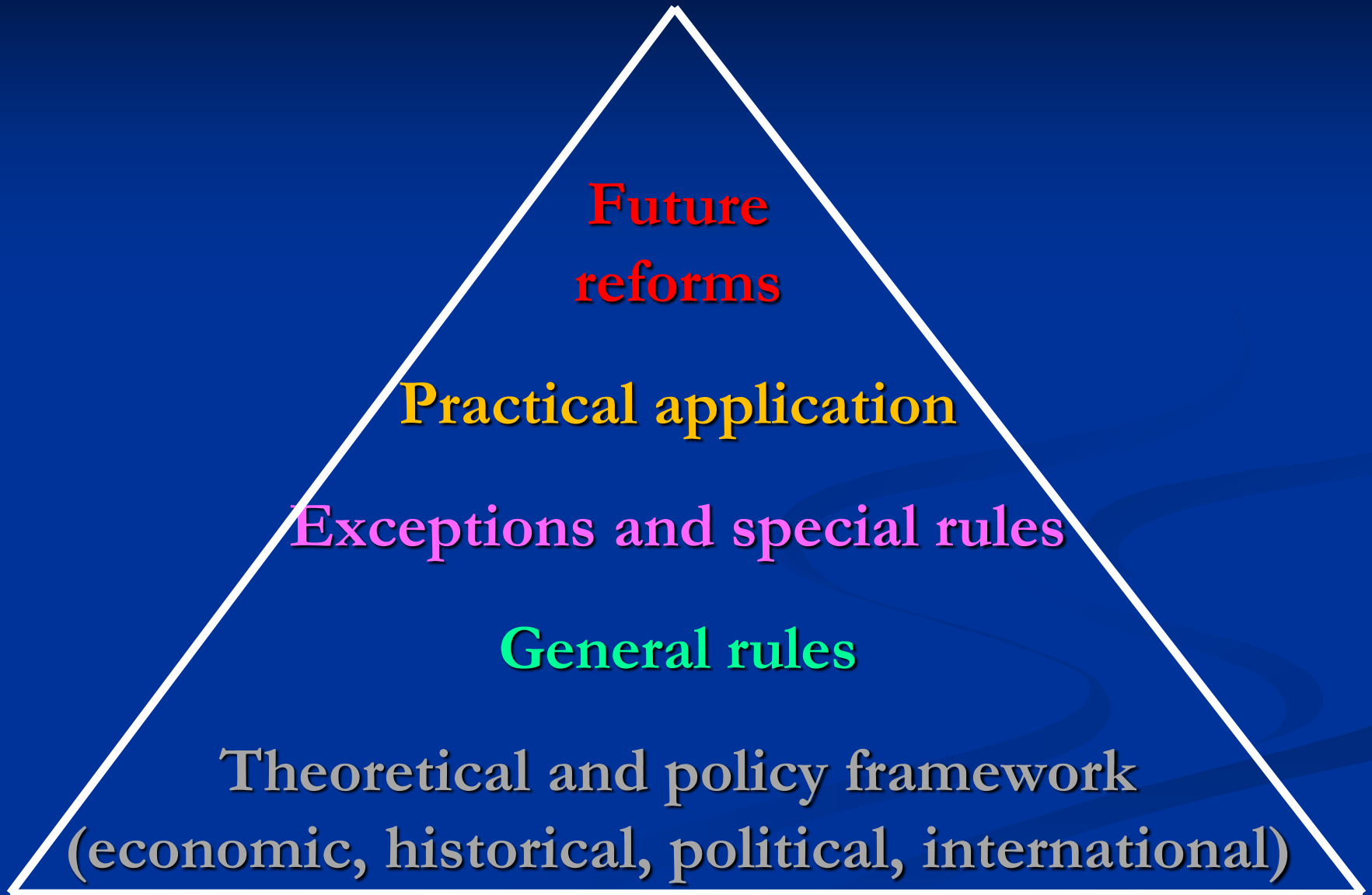
Background and teaching aim

- Teaching taxation law and commercial law units for over 25 years
- Practised with a major law firm for over 12 years and consulted to Government
- Aim is to blend research and practice into teaching to make law relevant and not just abstract and to produce strong legal thinkers and future lawyers who:
 - appreciate theoretical and policy issues
 - understand the law and where to find it
 - know how to apply and use the law not just restate it
 - can think independently, critically and especially laterally
 - are ethical, commercial and creative

Teaching evidence

- Shaping student careers – selection of subsequent units, employment choices
- Blending research and teaching – textbooks, articles, influence on other teachers
- Blending professional experience and teaching – use of practical examples in classes, work done on advisory panels influencing policy discussion
- Making teaching less abstract - use of legal documents and not just textbooks
- Connecting units into course – demonstrating how the unit fits with other units studied
- Developing graduate skills – work with primary material and practical problem solving
- Demonstrating passion for teaching – turning dry area into interesting area
- Engaging students in dialogue – avoid pure lectures and help students learn to ask the right questions
- Educational leadership – course development, international programs
- Teaching different units/levels – undergraduate, postgraduate, professional courses
- Teaching beyond university – teaching in profession, professional examination roles
- Structuring teaching – clear construction of lectures, pyramid approach
- Using teaching aids – selective powerful diagrams that encapsulate whole topics

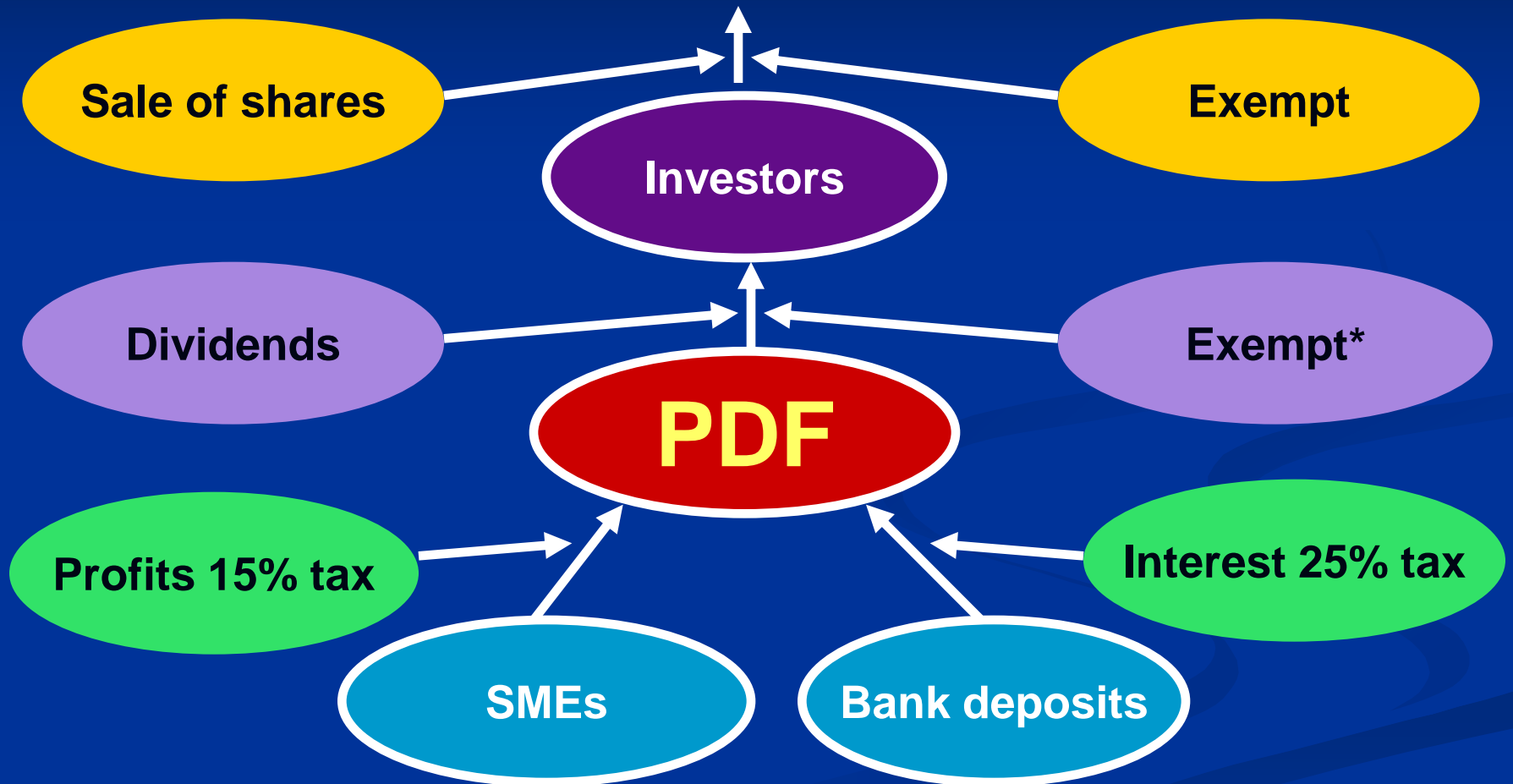
Teaching structure



Unit structure

- First lecture - overarching framework:
 - why subject is important (theoretically/practically)
 - why it should be studied (philosophically)
 - what is in it for the students (personally)
 - what is the structure of topics (full roadmap)
 - why topics are ordered in a particular way
- At the beginning of each topic, outline:
 - why it is being studied and what is the political and policy background
 - what are the key principles
 - what are the key problem areas
 - where it fits in to other topics and subjects
- At the end of each topic, identify:
 - key points learned and key problem areas
 - where the topic leads to
 - how the law applies to a practical problem

Explain difficult concepts simply



* Shareholders may choose to be assessed on franked PDF dividends to benefit from franking credits