Acknowledgements

To explain the origin of this book, I need to indulge in some personal history. A social work course was included in my university education, but it was not the major part, nor at the time did I regard it specifically in vocational terms. Eventually, however, I found myself working as a social worker. The work convinced me that here was a worthwhile career, but I wanted to know more about its development and scope in Australia, and it was apparent that I was not alone in this. Nothing but widespread ignorance on the subject could exist for no one had yet written about it. I am doubly thankful to The Australian National University. One of its PhD research scholarships gave me the opportunity to become better informed and to become better qualified academically, and now its Publications Committee has made it possible for the fruits of my labour to be shared with others who are interested.

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