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Research for this project involved extensive interviews with heads of government departments, agencies and bodies, and public servants in central agencies who have had roles in public sector governance. These interviews were supplemented by case studies of governance in several agencies. Six issues papers were produced,¹ and a range of articles, chapters and papers. This material was supplemented by final interviews that reflected the changing interpretations and practice of public governance up to 2011. We wish to express our appreciation for the time that was given to the project by numerous senior public servants.

The project was started by the four principal investigators at the University of Canberra: Professor Meredith Edwards, Professor John Halligan, Professor Bryan Horrigan and Dr Geoffrey Nicoll. During the project’s tenure, Professor Edwards was made professor emeritus and Professor Horrigan moved first to Macquarie University and then to Monash University as the Louis Waller Chair of Law. The University of Canberra has provided a supportive environment for

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¹ Issues Papers, nos 1–6, Corporate Governance ARC Project, University of Canberra:
Meredith Edwards and Robyn Clough 2005, Corporate Governance and Performance: An Exploration of the Connection in a Public Sector Context.
John Halligan and Bryan Horrigan 2005, Reforming Corporate Governance in the Australian Federal Public Sector: From Uhrig to Implementation.
Meredith Edwards 2006, Appointments to Public Sector Boards in Australia: A Comparative Assessment.
John Kalokerinos 2007, Developments in the Role of the Chair in the Private and Public Sectors.
Meredith Edwards 2008, Participatory Governance.
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The partners, and many others, have had to wait longer for this book than was originally anticipated. However, rather than publish on the cusp of change and transition through recent governance and electoral cycles, this book is being released when the way ahead in the 2010s, in academic and policy terms, is becoming clearer in some respects, while still uncertain in others.