

Foreword

This present collection of essays and research reports by 14 academic commentators and senior practitioners brings together a diverse set of contributors unified in the belief that reform initiatives are imperative for better government and public policy. All these contributions have connections with ANZSOG — the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, established in 2002–03 as an innovative collaboration between the Australian and New Zealand governments and a range of prestigious universities across both countries. Some of the essays were commissioned research papers by experts in the field on topics of multi-jurisdictional concern, others were research papers in which ANZSOG played a role and that were subsequently presented to ANZSOG for publication, and others were first given as keynote speeches at public events hosted by ANZSOG or involving ANZSOG staff members. Of the 14 contributors, eight are academics by profession (at various stages, five have been members of ANZSOG faculty), and six are senior executives with wide-ranging government experience. They each approach their topic with critical engagement, providing constructive suggestions and recommendations for future reform.

This title, *New Accountabilities, New Challenges*, is the latest in the ANU Press/ANZSOG series which now runs to over 40 titles covering diverse areas of public policy and administration. (ANZSOG also publishes web-based occasional papers, often with jurisdictional partners.) It is the fourth collection of essays ANU Press and ANZSOG have published since the series began in 2006. The first was *A Passion of Policy: Essays in public sector reform* (2007), the second *Improving Implementation: Organisational change and project management* (2007), and the third was *Critical Reflections on Australian Public Policy: Selected essays* (2009). Each of these previous collections has been well received and consistently attracted high downloads. I am sure that this collection will not disappoint readers, and feel confident that it will surpass the take-up and dissemination accorded to the earlier collections. I commend the volume of essays to our stakeholders and readers and look forward to the debates it will undoubtedly stimulate.

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This text taken from *New Accountabilities, New Challenges*,
edited by John Wanna, Evert A. Lindquist and Penelope Marshall, published
2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.