

Acknowledgements

Writing this book has been on my mind for a long time. The idea of a 50th anniversary book probably first occurred to me in 1990 at the time of the 25th anniversary council, but it was not until around 2005 that I undertook the first set of interviews and put some thoughts down. After 2010, as the 50th anniversary loomed, the intensity picked up. I remember at a conference putting some chapter headings down on a piece of paper and passing it to Marc Purcell and Susan Harris-Rimmer, who commented, changed the order, added one or two and nodded encouragingly, and so began the race to finish it in time.

I would like to thank those who gave me the necessary nudges over the past few years to make this publication possible; in particular, Marc Purcell, the executive director of ACFID, and his staff who gave me their full support without any editorial 'guidance' as to what should or should not be included. This presented its own set of challenges as then it was up to me to make those decisions. The staff at the Special Collections Reading Room at the National Library of Australia were always helpful in retrieving boxes from 'off site'. The NLA's archiving staff (together with ACFID staff) did a fantastic job of cataloguing 40 years of archives, from enigmatic handwritten notes to ground-breaking reports. It is these manuscripts of the official record that are the primary sources for the book and against which interviews were checked when there was an occasional difference in accounts. Special thanks go to Jim Richards who provided some valuable research assistance for Chapter 6 on human rights.

The interviewees were chosen on the basis of their leadership role in ACFID or their insights into particular issues they were involved with during their time with the organisation. I spoke to all former executive directors, who generously gave their time: Mick Sullivan, Bob Whan, Russell Rollason, Janet Hunt, Graham Tupper and Paul O'Callaghan. In particular, I would like to thank Russell Rollason and Janet Hunt, who provided valuable comments on earlier drafts and kept me anchored to the reality of the times. I would also like to thank former presidents and chairmen: the late Major General Paul Cullen, Richard Alston, Bill Armstrong and Gaye Hart; former executive committee members: Wendy Rose, Elizabeth Reid, Wendy Poussard, Ruth Pfanner,

Andrew Hewitt, Jeremy Hobbs, and Jack de Groot; Chris Franks from the Code of Conduct Committee; and James Ensor from the Advocacy Committee. In addition, thanks are also due to former foreign ministers Andrew Peacock and Gareth Evans, and former staff of ACFID Brendan O'Dwyer, Kate Moore, Christine Vincent, Cath Blunt, Pat Walsh and Susan Harris-Rimmer. The late Jim Webb and Nancy Anderson, who I had the opportunity to speak to, deserve a special mention as they were present at the meetings and workshops that led to the establishment of ACFID.

The three anonymous reviewers and the Social Sciences Editorial Board led by Emeritus Professor Marian Sawer provided constructive feedback and kept me focused. Special thanks go to Helen Topor for copyediting the manuscript and to the ANU Press for publishing the book. Last, but by no means least, I am grateful to my wife Joyce Wu whose constant support made this task possible. She provided much-needed proofreading and made valuable editorial comments.

This text is taken from *NGOS and Political Change: A History of the Australian Council for International Development*, by Patrick Kilby, published 2015 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.