

# Acknowledgments

This tenth volume in the Australian Commonwealth Administration series has been one of the most difficult to assemble, primarily because the period of review has seen major oscillations and change in the fortunes of many key figures and key issues. The book was initiated in early 2009 when the Rudd government dominated both the political landscape and the opinion polls, and was completed for publication shortly after the 2010 election when Rudd had been replaced as Prime Minister and Labor had narrowly been returned to form a minority government.

We are well aware that the contributing authors have had to make frequent adjustments to their contributions and to their line of argument to capture the turbulence of the period; in fact, our first working title was *Rudd's First Government!* The editors are grateful for their flexibility and their resilience and also for their capacity to deliver a manuscript so soon after the election result. Our thanks go to them and to the staff in the many public agencies who have provided data to support their research.

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This volume is the first e-publication in the series and we invite readers to take the opportunity to download individual chapters and, even, the entire volume. We want our work to be accessible intellectually and hope that this publishing venture will make it accessible physically as well.

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