

Acknowledgments

The initiative for this collection arose from a conference held in Canberra in 2009 to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the federal *Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (SDA)* and to take stock of the Act in light of contemporary developments. I thank the ANU College of Law for financial support to facilitate the Silver Anniversary Conference. Special thanks are extended to the College Outreach and Administrative Support Team (COAST)—Christine, Wendy, Kristian and Sarah—for administration of the conference, Bea Hogan of the College Research Support Team (CReST) for assistance with assembling the papers for publication, Vidhi Mahajan for research assistance, Jan Borrie for editorial work and the anonymous referees for their helpful comments.

I thank Old Parliament House, Canberra (now the Museum of Australian Democracy), for allowing me to use the House of Representatives Chamber for a dramaturgical performance of the *SDA* debates, ‘The *SDA* and its Rocky Rite of Passage’, at the opening of the conference. Warm thanks to my thespian colleagues, who played the historic roles, and to my former research associate, Dr Trish Luker, for assistance with the performance and the script. (A video of the performance can be viewed online at <http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/Sex_Discrim/conference.htm>.

I acknowledge the support of the Australian Research Council in funding a fellowship, which enabled me to organise the conference and prepare the papers for publication.¹

I am particularly grateful to the Dean of the ANU College of Law, Professor Michael Coper, for his support and for providing me with a congenial environment in which to work.

I am also grateful to Judy Horacek for granting permission to reproduce the cartoon on the cover and to the ANU E Press for agreeing to publish the collection.

Last, but not least, I thank the contributors for their scholarly contributions and for their collegiality over the years in traversing the rocky road of the *SDA*.



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

ARC Discovery Project DP0664177

1 M. Thornton, *EEO in a Culture of Uncertainty*, (DP0664177).