

# FRAGILITY AND HOPE IN A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTY



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## Introduction

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The Oxford dictionaries list the meaning of fragility as ‘The quality of being easily broken or damaged’ and ‘The quality of being delicate or vulnerable’. Take your pick, as both definitions directly relate to part of the content in this book. Hope is described as ‘A feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.’ Uncertainty is suggested by Wikipedia as ‘a situation which involves imperfect or unknown information’.

The chapters in the first part of the book, written by leading Australian thinkers, deal with all three concepts, fragility, hope and uncertainty, in varying measures. They cover a wide range of topics, including nuclear disarmament, climate change, immunization, gender equality and mental health. These are only a few of the areas of the human condition where fragility persists, hope lingers and uncertainty is present.

Pertinent to each chapter are underlining philosophical issues concerning the sort of society in which we want to live and our ability to cope with the impact of rapid change; social, medical, political and technological.

The second part of the book features writing by talented young people who have participated in the Future Leaders Writing Prize ([www.futureleaders.com.au](http://www.futureleaders.com.au)) and Questions Writing Prize ([www.questions.com.au](http://www.questions.com.au)).

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