Acknowledgements

This collection emerged out of symposium held in Melbourne at the end of 2014, entitled 'Achieving Universal Birth Registration in Australia'.

We would like to thank the authors of the chapters: their work in the area of universal birth registration and birth certificates. Their involvement in the symposium and this book make an important contribution to the contemporary debates around an under-recognised human rights issue in Australia.

We would also like to thank all the people who kindly shared their stories with us at the symposium and over the course of our research project.

Mick Gooda, Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission, has been a source of inspiration and support for us, and for many people working in Indigenous rights. He very graciously accepted our invitation to provide a thoughtful and engaging Foreword to this book. We are very grateful for his contribution and his ongoing support.

The organisation of the symposium and the completion of this book was greatly assisted by the invaluable work of Sophie Shugg, Siobhan McCann and Jack Regester. We are also indebted to the anonymous peer

reviewers, who provided helpful comments on chapters 1. 3 and 12.

Thanks to Rod Hagen and Andy Gargett for all their work in earlier stages of this project, and their ongoing commitment to overcoming inequality and addressing discrimination in so many areas of Indigenous disadvantage in Australia. Special mention also goes to Erica Contini, Kate Galloway and Professor Kerry Arabena, and to Thomas Kane for his initial inspiration and continued support of this project.

We are indebted to the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, the Monash Law Faculty and the Monash Indigenous Centre for their intellectual support, and to our symposium partners, UNICEF and Plan Australia, for helping to progress reform in this area.

The Registrars for Births Deaths and Marriages around Australia have demonstrated wonderful energy and commitment to achieving universal birth registration, and their goodwill has been vital in addressing this issue. Many community organisations and individuals have provided their time, people power and their stories, and we hope this book goes some way to repay them for their support and contributions.

We would like to thank Professor Lynette Russell for her advice and support, the Australian Research Council, our research linkage partners: Clayton Utz, Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia, Plan International Australia, Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services and Multicultural Affairs — Community and Personal Histories Team, Rise Community Support, Tangentyere Council, and the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, as well as Dr Jane Freemantle and the Melbourne School of Population Health.

Melissa Castan and Paula Gerber April 2015