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## Preface

‘Growing up’ for many young people can be both rewarding and challenging. In the time that it takes for children to mature and to independently enter the world as adults, the education system has had many years of precious opportunities to inspire, guide, shape and even repair young lives. This Handbook is dedicated to those individuals who work both in schools and alongside schools and who strive to educate and instil a sense of hope, meaning and purpose in children and young people. It is for those individuals who make the process of growing up easier and who never stop believing in the power that education has to transform lives. We hope that the vast amount of research evidence, intervention strategies and practice wisdom contained within this Handbook will greatly benefit the work of all school psychologists. In putting this Handbook together, we were overwhelmed by the multispecialist nature of this role, evidenced by the number of topics covered. We are fortunate to have so many experts in Australia and internationally that contribute knowledge and research evidence to ensure students are receiving the best possible service to meet their needs. School psychologists are such an important resource for students, parents, teachers and school leadership alike. It is our hope that the Australian school psychology profession will continue to thrive in future research, practice and policy and it is exciting to present this first Australian Handbook of School Psychology to the school psychology profession.

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