About the authors

Mary Crock (BA (Hons) LLB (Hons) PhD (Melbourne)) has worked in the area of immigration and refugee law since 1985. She is Professor of Public Law at Sydney University Law School. An Accredited Specialist in Immigration Law since 1994, she has been listed in the peer reviewed publication Best Lawyers in Australia (for immigration law) since 2008 and has served on a variety of national, state and NGO bodies relating to immigration, refugees, disability and child protection. Professor Crock has written extensively on issues related to immigration and refugee law, authoring 11 books, and over 70 book chapters and refereed articles. She has had a research focus on the laws, policies and practices involving persons with disabilities in forced migration since 2010, building on a long-standing interest in children and other vulnerable migrants. Together with her husband Professor Emeritus Ron McCallum AO, her work with refugees with disabilities was recognized in December 2015 with the award of the inaugural NEDA Medal by Australia’s National Ethnic Disability Alliance.

Laura Smith-Khan (BA (Languages) LLB (Hons) (Sydney), GradDip Legal Practice (ANU), M App Ling (Monash)) is a Doctoral Candidate in Linguistics at Macquarie University. Her doctoral research focuses on linguistic diversity, communication and social justice within Australia’s refugee policy and procedures. She was lead research associate on the Protection of Refugees with Disabilities project, coordinating and conducting research across all six fieldwork locations. Along with the Chief Investigators, she has presented project findings at various international conferences and seminars. Since completing her undergraduate education in 2011, Ms Smith-Khan has authored 12 peer-reviewed publications across multiple disciplines. She is admitted as a legal practitioner in the NSW Supreme Court and has worked with refugees as a para-legal. She teaches at Sydney University Law School and Macquarie Law School, with a particular focus on Public International Law and Human Rights.

Ron McCallum AO (B Juris LLB (Hons) (Monash), LLM (Queens)) was the foundation Blake Dawson Waldron Professor in Industrial Law in the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney between 1993 and
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Ron McCallum was appointed to the faculty of Law at Sydney University in 2007 and Dean of this faculty between 2002 and 2007. Ron is the first totally blind person to have been appointed to a full professorship in any field and to have served as Dean of a Law School at any university in Australia or New Zealand. He is now an Emeritus Professor at Sydney University Law School. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Labour Law Association, serving in that role from 2001 to 2009. His many voluntary representative positions include Deputy Chair of Vision Australia (2006–16). He was elected to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 and served until December 2014. He chaired this committee from 2010–13. In recognition of his professional contributions and extensive community service, Ron was named Senior Australian of the Year in 2011. In 2016 his alma mater Queens University in Canada awarded him an Honourary Doctorate of Laws. It was at Queens University in 1972 that Ron first befriended the now pre-eminent Ugandan, Nuwe Amanya Mushega, a connection that drew us to include Uganda in our research.

Ben Saul (BA (Hons) LLB (Hons) (Sydney) DPhil (Oxford)) is Challis Chair of International Law at Sydney University Law School, Visiting Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University in 2017–18, a barrister, and an Associate Fellow of Chatham House. Ben has published 14 books and over 95 refereed articles. Significant books include Defining Terrorism in International Law (2006), Research Handbook on International Law and Terrorism (2014), The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Commentary, Cases and Materials (2014) (awarded a Certificate of Merit by the American Society of International Law), and Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights (2016). Ben practises in international tribunals (including the international and regional criminal courts) and was lead counsel in five successful national security cases against Australia before the UN Human Rights Committee. Ben has advised United Nations and international bodies (including UNODC, UNHCR, UNESCO and OHCHR), governments, and NGOs, and delivered technical assistance in developing countries. He drafted the professional training curriculum on terrorism and international law for UNODC. Ben has served on various international and national bodies, and taught law and undertaken field missions in numerous countries. He often appears in the media.