

# The Good Mother

**Contemporary Motherhoods in Australia**

**Edited by Susan Goodwin & Kate Huppatz**



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*This book is dedicated to our mothers  
Gae Southwell, who has been an extremely good mother though  
she broke a few of the rules of her time,  
and  
Elizabeth Huppertz, who mothered through tough times and often  
without help but always with love.*



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This book began with a conversation around a particularly dreadful depiction of mothers which appeared in the media, reminding us of the ways ideas about good and bad mothers continue to regulate women. The recognition that there were a number of researchers in a range of disciplines whose current work involved the analysis of mothers' experiences resulted in a workshop around the theme of the good mother and laid the foundations for bringing together this research into a book. We thank all of the authors for their enthusiasm for this project, and for providing such thoughtful, interesting and insightful accounts of the contemporary experience and for adding to our knowledge about motherhood in its diversity.

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