

Preface

When *Human Perspectives* was first published in 1979 stem cells were found only in the stems of plants, AIDS was a disease, and devices to make life easier and fingerprints were made from fingers not from DNA. One of the exciting things about human biology is the continual accumulation of new knowledge about our species. This new knowledge is reflected in the many differences between this new edition of *Human Perspectives* and previous editions.

This fifth edition of *Human Perspectives Book 1* has been written to suit the stage 2 units of the new Human Biological Science course in Western Australia. The content has been rearranged to reflect the three outcomes of the course and the six content organisers of Cells, metabolism and regulation; Body systems; Inheritance; Variation and evolution; Approaches to investigating and communicating human biology; and 'The relevance of human biology to everyday life'. The unit content that is addressed by each chapter is listed on the title page for the chapter. These content statements are taken directly from the unit content statements in the Human Biological Science course document published by the Curriculum Council. Due to the integrated nature of the content, the same content may be covered by more than one chapter.

This book covers the content for units 2A and 2B. Since there is some overlap between the material in the two units we decided that many teachers would teach the two units together. We have therefore integrated the chapters into a logical sequence. However, content within a chapter is not integrated; any one chapter will contain only 2A material or 2B material. The chapters relating to each unit have been colour coded for ease of identification. This is particularly relevant for assessment where teachers must be able to show that both units have been assessed. The 2A chapters are identified by a green stripe at the bottom of each page and the 2B chapters have a similar stripe in red.

We have also tried to make the chapters as self contained as possible so that teachers can follow a

sequence different from that presented in the book. Teaching unit 2A followed by unit 2B could be done if that were the preferred option.

Many students taking the stage 2 units will not have completed stage 1 and will therefore be lacking some of the background required to understand the concepts presented in stage 2. To address this issue we have included annotated diagrams that cover the essential groundwork for a particular content area. For example Figure 3.10 is a diagram showing cell structure with annotations describing the various structures and their functions; Figure 6.2 is an annotated diagram showing the formed elements of the blood and detailing their functions.

As in the previous edition we have again included *Working scientifically* activities. Although included in the chapter where the content is most relevant many of them could be used to support other areas of content. This particularly applies to those activities relating to scientific method. Many *Working scientifically* activities could be used as assessment tasks.

A feature new to this edition is one or more extension activities in each chapter. These involve the student in delving a little deeper into some of the material discussed in the chapter. Extension activities could be used for interest, for homework, for assessment or they could be omitted altogether.

For the first time a CD has been included with *Human Perspectives*. This will enable the student or teacher to have a copy of the book at school and a copy at home. The CD also lends itself to creative teaching strategies such as use with a data projector or an interactive whiteboard.

Whether you are a student or a teacher, we commend this book to you and wish you well in your studies of the biology of the human species.

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