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978-1-107-60817-7 - Health and Physical Education: Preparing Educators for the Future

Deborah Callcott, Judith Miller and Susan Wilson-Gahan

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# Health and Physical Education

## Preparing Educators for the Future

*Health and Physical Education* empowers the health and physical education teachers of tomorrow to engage students across a wide range of learning ages. It highlights the importance of physical skills development within the broader structure of child and adolescent health and wellbeing.

This well-structured and engaging text considers the role of health and physical education within the wider educational experience, and provides a comprehensive overview of the skills and theory required to teach health and physical education in Australian schools.

*Health and Physical Education* is based on current research literature and recommended pedagogy and is enhanced by a range of valuable teaching resources – including further reading, end-of-chapter questions and case studies – intended to extend and develop students' learning. It is accompanied by an extensive companion website, at [www.cambridge.edu.au/academic/hpe](http://www.cambridge.edu.au/academic/hpe).

**Deborah Callcott** is Lecturer in the School of Education at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia.

**Judith Miller** is Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at the University of New England, New South Wales.

**Susan Wilson-Gahan** is Program Coordinator Sport, Health and Physical Education and Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Southern Queensland.

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# Foreword

Deborah Callcott, Judith Miller and Susan Wilson-Gahan have written a timely, much needed and ambitious book for students preparing to become teachers of health and physical education. They valuably address the preparation of teachers across the whole age range of compulsory schooling, from early years to secondary school. This is something that is rarely done, perhaps due to the perceived divide between primary generalists and secondary specialists. Or, where the complete age range *is* considered, emphasis is often given to one group over the other. By taking a developmental perspective in this volume, the three authors seek to overcome some of the shortcomings of other teacher education texts. In so doing, they provide a strong sense of alignment of physical education provision across the age range.

They also seek to align the subject matter of health and physical education, and information and communication technology (ICT). This is a challenging task to do well since these bodies of knowledge in themselves are complex, with different histories and pedagogies in the school curriculum. In addition to the developmental perspective just mentioned, Callcott, Miller and Wilson-Gahan use scenarios and tasks skilfully to bring together and integrate this complex content for students. Along with this extensive use of scenarios is a further feature, which is to speak as directly as possible to individual student teachers and to prompt each one to locate the book's concepts within their own experience, both past and present.

While other teacher education texts similarly make extensive use of scenarios and tasks, these three authors do so uniquely within a futures perspective. For students preparing to become teachers in 2012 and who may still reasonably expect to be teaching in 2042, this focus on futures is especially important and appropriate. The book approaches this futures issue by prompting students to consider their past and current experiences, and thus to consider temporality. More specifically, they are encouraged to consider change as a regular and routine feature of everyday life, both for them as teachers and for their pupils.

An enduring theme of the book is a concern for social justice. For Callcott, Miller and Wilson-Gahan this is no mere theoretical position or politically correct posture. It is instead a genuine desire to facilitate the preparation of teachers who can provide for the education of all children, not merely the motorically competent, surely one of physical education's perennial shortcomings. In publically funded systems of education, all children have a right to become the best they can be in a given curriculum topic. This book takes a strongly principled – though practical – approach to this issue.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Finally this ambitious text is grounded in the most recent and relevant scholarly research in this field, exemplified by the focus on a models-based approach to physical education and frequent reference to the Sport Education model in particular as a means of achieving many of the authors' goals. The research complements the authors' long experience in preparing pre-service teachers to work in health and physical education. The result is a textbook written both for the practical immediacies of the present and for the uncertainties of the future.

**David Kirk**

April 2012

# Contents

Foreword by Professor David Kirk	v
About the authors	xi
Acknowledgments	xii
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction	2
Context of the state to Australian Curriculum transition	3
Definition of terms	4
Pre-service teacher education (PSTE) student	6
Teacher biography	6
Learning entitlement for early childhood, primary and secondary students	9
Outline of the text	10
Conclusion	13
Review questions	13
Useful websites	14
<b>CHAPTER 2: THE FOUNDATION OF MOVEMENT SKILLS</b>	<b>15</b>
Introduction	16
The primitive, postural and locomotive reflexive phases	19
The reflexive phase and later learning	23
The rudimentary phase of development	24
The fundamental movement phase	28
Later childhood (ages 7–12) sports skill phase	33
Further considerations in teaching physical education in a developmental curriculum	37
Conclusion	38
Review activities and questions	38
Useful websites	39
<b>CHAPTER 3: TEACHING INCLUSIVELY: EQUITY AND DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION</b>	<b>41</b>
Introduction	42
Language of inclusion	43
Current educational diversity practice in Australia	45
Gender differences	45
Students with a disability	47
Indigenous students	51

## Contents

	National origin and religion – promoting cultural equity	53
	Overweight and obese children	55
	Conclusion	55
	Review activities and questions	56
	Useful websites	57
<b>CHAPTER 4:</b>	<b>WHAT ALL TEACHERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MOVEMENT</b>	<b>59</b>
	Introduction	60
	Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) defined	62
	What causes DCD?	62
	Interventions	63
	Identifying children with DCD	65
	Effects of DCD on development	67
	DCD in the playground and during physical education	73
	Conclusion	75
	Review activities and questions	76
	Useful websites	76
<b>CHAPTER 5:</b>	<b>PEDAGOGY</b>	<b>77</b>
	Introduction	78
	Performance pedagogy	79
	Decision making at the centre of pedagogy	80
	Students learn ‘other things’ in health and physical education	86
	Curriculum and pedagogical practices	88
	Conclusion	96
	Review activities and questions	96
	Useful websites	97
<b>CHAPTER 6:</b>	<b>PLANNING FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING</b>	<b>98</b>
	Introduction	99
	The curriculum	99
	Interpreting and planning curricula	101
	Dimensions of planning for teaching and learning	102
	Collaboration in planning	103
	Integration with other learning areas	104
	Planning in a nutshell	104
	Lesson plans	114
	Learning experiences	117



Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60817-7 - Health and Physical Education: Preparing Educators for the Future

Deborah Callcott, Judith Miller and Susan Wilson-Gahan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)**Contents**

	Conclusion	118
	Review activities and questions	119
	Useful websites	120
<b>CHAPTER 7:</b>	<b>ICT AND GENERAL CAPABILITIES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM</b>	<b>121</b>
	Introduction	122
	General capabilities in the Australian Curriculum	123
	Information and communication technology (ICT)	125
	School-based ICT	128
	ICT, early childhood, and health and physical education	130
	What can we learn from the research to guide the increased use of ICT in health and physical education?	133
	ICT and students with disabilities	134
	Conclusion	134
	Review activities and questions	135
	Useful websites	136
<b>CHAPTER 8:</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>137</b>
	Introduction	138
	Assessment purpose defined	138
	Forms of assessment	141
	Designing assessment	143
	What to assess in health and physical education	144
	How to assess in health and physical education	145
	Performance product versus process	148
	Criteria for assessment	149
	Principles of assessment	149
	Alignment of teaching, learning, assessing and reporting	151
	High-stakes testing and multiple measures of assessment	151
	Assessment of movement and physical performance	152
	Issues in assessment	153
	Conclusion	155
	Review activities and questions	155
	Useful websites	156
<b>CHAPTER 9:</b>	<b>HEALTH EDUCATION</b>	<b>158</b>
	Introduction	159
	The purpose and importance of health education	159

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-60817-7 - Health and Physical Education: Preparing Educators for the Future

Deborah Callcott, Judith Miller and Susan Wilson-Gahan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

Making education for health and wellbeing work in your school	163
Health promotion in school settings	164
Developmental needs of students	166
General capabilities addressed in health education	168
Addressing diverse needs in health education	168
Research – the backbone of credible program development	169
Integrating health education with other learning areas	174
The social determinants of health and wellbeing	174
Conclusion	175
Review activities and questions	176
Useful websites	177
Glossary	178
Bibliography	183
Index	200

Cambridge University Press

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# About the authors

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**Susan Wilson-Gahan** is Program Coordinator Sport, Health and Physical Education and Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). She is currently completing her PhD, examining sociocultural influences on talent development in sport. She was a member of the Sport, Health and Physical Education specialisation program development team and the Queensland College of Teachers' Accreditation Committee at USQ. Prior to entering academia, Susan was a curriculum leader and secondary school teacher of health education and physical education for 33 years, with additional experience in primary school teaching and special education. She has worked at the Queensland Studies Authority on projects related to the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting (QCAR) Framework, including as a member of the Years 1–9 Essential Learnings and Standards curriculum development team and as a writer for the QCAR Assessment Bank. Susan is passionate about the holistic nature of health and wellbeing and the part health plays in academic engagement. She has a continuing involvement in sports organisation at all levels and still participates socially in a number of sports, after a successful competitive career.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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## **Susan Wilson-Gahan**

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