

extremely valuable resource for graduated MYCP parents. Yet for many carers and most parents the book would need to be accompanied by practical support and encouragement and the opportunity for discussion and counselling over a period of time. "The Third Hand" is a "find" for those professionals working in the area of supporting parents with parenting and an extremely promising resource for carers. I liked this book!

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LIFE SPAN DEVELOPMENT

**LINDSAY GETHING,
DIANE E. PAPALIA,
& SALLY WENDKOS OLDS**

**SYDNEY: MCGRAW-HILL. 1995
ISBN 0 07 470241 6 PP. XII + 643
RRP \$55.95**

An Australasian reworking of North American texts has to balance a total reworking (economically difficult) and a superficial brush-over (culturally irrelevant). Gething met this challenge with around 400 of the 2,000 references being (20%) identifiably Australasian. More statistical data is taken from our own Australasian base, although, given the lead time necessary, most of this still dates back ten or more years. This second Australasian edition of this chronological infancy-to-end of life text has many contributors associated with the University of Sydney. New Australasian material includes the rise of AIDS, Aboriginal and Maori issues, youth homelessness, and elder abuse. Australian writers like Callan and Poole and New Zealand writers like Clay and Mitchell are represented. In the index,

however, Maori is the only New Zealand subject listing.

The book is worth serious consideration for all who wish to prescribe contemporary and culturally relevant material in courses concerned with life span development. Possibly it is not quite as extensive as Candi Peterson's text. The strong influence of health sciences rather than education in much Australian research in child and adolescent development gives it a biological orientation. Piaget is given more detailed attention than in the earlier edition. Learning checklists and lists of possible activities and projects are a useful addition. The instructor's manual includes overhead transparencies, but the small print, particularly in tables, may be ineffective in large lecture theatres. Figures are relatively clear. A videodisc was not available to this reviewer. Several reference errors were found (e.g., title and year of O'Rourke & Clough, 1978, on p. 617; double referencing of Bennett, 1987, p. 585; no title for Eisele & others, p. 595).

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