Acknowledgments

This book is a culmination of fifteen years of research on the subject of independents. It stems from an interest first sparked by a PhD on the topic in the Department of Political Science at Trinity College, Dublin, and it was later the subject of a postdoctoral fellowship. I am extremely grateful to the Irish Research Council for funding both these projects. The first was in the form of a Government of Ireland postgraduate scholarship (2002–5), and the second a Marie Curie CARA fellowship at Macquarie University, Sydney and University College Cork (2010–13).

A number of other institutions also provided crucial support, including the Royal Irish Academy, the Institute of Social Research at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne and the Waseda Institute for Advanced Study at Waseda University in Tokyo.

Of course this book would not have been possible without the advice I received along the way. In particular, Michael Gallagher deserves special thanks for supervising the original PhD dissertation, as does Michael Marsh, and Murray Goot for his counsel in Sydney. I am extremely grateful to Nicole Bolleyer, Fiona Buckley, Ken Carty, Michael Gallagher, Shane MacGiollabhú and Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh for reading and commenting on various draft chapters. I would also like to thank Martin Hansen for providing the roll-call data used in Chapter 7, and for always responding so promptly to my many queries.

Others deserving of at least a mention include Clive Ahern, Eddie Campbell, John Coakley, Neil Collins, Stephen Collins, Richard Colwell, Brian Costar, Anthony Egan, David Farrell, Kieran Galvin, Anika Gauja, Anthony Green, Martin Hansen, Airo Hino, Willy Jou, Muiris MacCarthaigh, Shane Martin, Ian McAllister, David McEllin, Ian McShane, Catherine Murphy, Yvonne Murphy, Eunan O’Halpin, Maureen O’Sullivan, Roderick Pace, Steven Reed, Campbell Sharman, Kathy Sheridan, Rodney Smith, Peter Tucker, Tony Varley and Noel Whelan.

I have also benefited from the sage advice of colleagues at depart-

ments who have hosted me, especially the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney, the Institute of European Studies at Valetta, Malta, the School of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University, Tokyo, and the Department of Political Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am indebted to my colleagues at the Department of Government, University College Cork, for their support in this journey.

I am grateful for the expert advice provided from members of the various electoral commissions and parliamentary libraries across Australia, in particular Colin Barry, Philip Greene, Michael Maley, Terri Newman, Jenni Newton-Farrelly, Brian Stait, Steve Tully and Walter van der Merwe.

I thank all the team at Manchester University Press for believing in, and supporting, this project. This includes, in particular, Tony Mason and Dee Devine. I am also very grateful to the two anonymous referees who provided a number of extremely useful suggestions.

Some work in this study has drawn upon material from within: Liam Weeks (2015), 'Why are there Independents in Ireland?', (adapted), *Government and Opposition*, FirstView Article, Cambridge University Press 2015; Liam Weeks, 'Crashing the party. Does STV help Independents?', *Party Politics* 20(4): 604–16; Liam Weeks (2011), 'Rage against the machine: who is the independent voter?', *Irish Political Studies*, 26 (1): 19–43; and Liam Weeks (2009), 'We don't like (to) party. A typology of Independents in Irish political life, 1922–2007', *Irish Political Studies*, 24 (1): 1–27. Thanks also to the Australian Electoral Commission and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government for permission to reproduce the ballot papers in Chapter 6.

As ever, my family were a bedrock of support along the way. Special thanks are due to my parents Graham and Margaret, and my sister Caoimhe.

Finally, this book could not have been produced without the assistance of the independents themselves, who put up with my many requests and questions. They were always extremely generous with their time and patience. This book is dedicated to them.