

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my dissertation supervisor Professor Fentey Scott whose knowledge and insight were invaluable. I am also indebted to Emirates Group for their financial assistance.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the women who participated in this study. Their openness and honesty were inspiring and I am grateful to them for the valuable time they gave and the experiences they shared.

Finally, I would not have been able to complete this without the unconditional support and encouragement of my husband, Alisdair, my mother, Edith, Andrew and Jackie Sim, and my good friends Elise, Sarah and Zulaikha.