

BIRT CHALMERS BYRNE BROOKS OLIVER

4TH EDITION

accounting

business reporting for decision making



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preface

The growth of the diversified and multinational business entity, the harmonisation and convergence of accounting standards worldwide, and the large-scale corporate collapses of the past two decades have had a major impact on the role of today's accountant. Today's accountants are employed in such roles as investigating insolvencies, detecting e-commerce fraud, assisting entities with complying with international accounting standards and providing advice on the disclosure of social and environmental issues.

While this new edition of *Accounting: business reporting for decision making* covers both preparer and user issues of business reporting, it predominantly explores and reinforces the principles of financial and management accounting from a user perspective. Accounting is viewed as a decision-making tool rather than a record-keeping function. Accounting information is constantly being used more extensively throughout our daily lives by stakeholders such as investors, lobby groups, environmental consultants and government bodies. The emphasis of this text is on *business reporting for decision making* and the text takes a systematic, integrated and cohesive approach to business reporting.

In developing this new edition of the text, we have carefully considered the positioning of the chapters and the flow of the learning objectives. We believe that the order of the chapters will suit the sequence of topics covered in most accounting courses. Throughout the text, terms are consistently defined and applied, such as the use of *entity* and *company*. In the majority of chapters, we have used JB Hi-Fi Ltd either as an illustrative case or as a basis for the chapter's exercises or problems. Changes in standard setting resulting from the Australian adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) are discussed and an overview of the new *Conceptual Framework* is provided. We have introduced a chapter on business sustainability and discussed the challenges for the accounting profession in relation to this topical subject.

Key features

This text is most suitable for introductory accounting units that focus on the different users of business reports, rather than the preparer of reports. It is also most suitable for first units in accounting in business degrees, MBA introductory accounting units and accounting service units.

The text has several unique features:

- References to JB Hi-Fi Ltd's annual report enhance the understanding of the concepts covered in the chapters. Each of the chapters on financial reporting provides a step-by-step illustration of the components of the financial statements and how to prepare and use the financial statements.