

Australian Psychological Society | Candidate Profile | 2025 Board of Directors Election

All candidate information is supplied by the candidate



Name: Camelia Wilkinson

Candidacy: President

CANDIDATE CAPABILITY RESPONSES

Demonstrated interest in working across various professions for the psychological health and wellbeing of the Australian community

My commitment advancing psychological health and wellbeing across the Australian community spans over two decades. I am an endorsed Educational and Developmental Psychologist, Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society (FAPS), Fellow of the College of Educational and Developmental Psychology (FCEDP), and Board-approved supervisor with PsyBA. My interdisciplinary approach involved collaboration across government sectors (Department of Human Services Disability Client Services, Department of Education Teaching and Training), professional organisations (SPELD Victoria, Australian Council for Educational Research), and private practice settings. This diverse experience has enabled me to work alongside educators, healthcare professionals, disability service providers, and families to deliver comprehensive psychological services for individuals with mental health conditions, neurodevelopmental disorders (autism, ADHD), specific learning difficulties, and disabilities. Beyond direct service provision, I contribute to workforce development through my roles as lecturer and placement coordinator in Master's and Doctoral programs at the University of Melbourne and ACU. As a researcher at Swinburne University investigating support for autistic students' transitions to tertiary education, I demonstrate commitment to evidence-based practice bridging psychological services with educational systems. This multifaceted experience reflects my dedication to collaborative, cross-professional approaches that enhance psychological wellbeing outcomes for diverse Australian communities through integrated service delivery, professional development, and applied research.

Extensive and current knowledge of, and good standing within, the APS and psychology

My three-decade relationship with the APS began as a Student Member in the 1990s and has evolved through sustained leadership across multiple organisational levels. This extensive involvement demonstrates my commitment to psychology and deep understanding of APS strategic priorities and member needs. My progression through senior roles - CEDP Conference Chair (2021), Scientific Committee member (2023), Victorian CEDP Chair (2020-2022), and current National CEDP Chair - reflects comprehensive knowledge of APS governance, policy frameworks, and advocacy functions. These

positions provided intimate insight into critical issues affecting Australian psychologists, including NDIS, Medicare access, and psychology education. Through National Committee leadership, I collaborate regularly with APS National Office on strategic initiatives shaping the profession's future. This includes contributing to policy submissions, workforce planning, and professional standards development that strengthen psychology's role in Australia's healthcare landscape. My sustained volunteer engagement, combined with current executive responsibilities, provides both historical perspective on APS evolution and contemporary understanding of emerging challenges. This dual perspective enables effective advocacy for member interests while supporting the APS's mission of advancing psychological science and practice. This breadth of experience positions me to lead with deep institutional knowledge, established relationships across the organisation, and proven commitment to advancing psychology's professional standing in Australia.

Demonstrated understanding of the role of a Non-Executive Director of a NFP company limited by guarantee

My APS leadership experience has provided comprehensive understanding of Non-Executive Director responsibilities in NFP organisations. As National CEDP Chair and previous Victorian Chair, I have operated within company limited by guarantee frameworks, understanding fiduciary duties, strategic oversight, and accountability requirements essential to NFP board governance. Managing committee finances while achieving budgetary efficiencies demonstrates the financial stewardship required for NFP directorship. My role advising university senior management and serving on course advisory committees has developed strategic planning, risk management, and organisational governance skills; core competencies for effective board oversight. Working with APS executives as both APS and CEDP Fellow, I understand legal obligations of directors in member-based organisations, including duty of care, ACNC compliance, and ensuring activities align with charitable purposes. My Presidential Consultation Taskforce experience demonstrates policy development and strategic decision-making capabilities at board level. Running a private practice requires accountability, while over two decades of cross-sector collaboration (government, professional organizations, private practice) has equipped me with strategic thinking and stakeholder engagement skills. This combined experience: NFP governance participation, financial oversight, strategic planning, regulatory compliance understanding, and multi-sector collaboration—provides the comprehensive skill set required to effectively discharge Non-Executive Director responsibilities while advancing organisational missions and member interests.

Effective leadership of membership teams or organisations that demonstrate a strong, values-based culture

As an authentic, purpose-driven leader, I consistently demonstrate effective leadership through fostering collaborative, performance-oriented cultures built on shared professional values. My leadership philosophy centres on empowering teams while maintaining clear focus on psychology's advocacy mission and community service obligations. A defining example occurred as CEDP Victoria Chair, where I successfully revived and re-energised the committee. By bringing fresh perspectives to existing challenges and inspiring members about their impactful roles, I transformed team dynamics and effectiveness. This reflected my belief that authentic leadership requires connecting individual contributions to broader professional purpose. My current National CEDP Chair role involves developing cohesive vision while leading complex advocacy initiatives on critical psychology training and delivery issues across Australia. This requires maintaining team cohesion while navigating challenging environments, demonstrating capacity to sustain values-based culture under pressure. Through over two decades, I have consistently modelled collaborative approaches that honour diverse perspectives while driving strategic outcomes. My mentorship roles, from supervising emerging psychologists to guiding university programs, demonstrate commitment to developing others within supportive, growth-oriented environments. This leadership style has enabled successful advocacy outcomes, strengthened membership engagement, and positioned psychology organisations to effectively serve Australian communities while maintaining the collaborative spirit essential to professional advancement.

Experience in, or a thorough understanding of, advocacy expectations and engagement of the community and all APS members

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated passionate commitment to advocacy and community engagement through leadership roles and strategic policy contributions serving all APS members and the broader Australian community. My career experience provides comprehensive working knowledge of APAC and PsyBA competencies, positioning me to contribute expert opinion on upcoming Education and Training Reform. My participation in AHPRA focus groups demonstrates engagement with regulatory bodies on professional issues. I have successfully led CEDP member input on numerous APS submissions addressing diverse community needs, including Senate inquiries on disability services for children and youth in NSW, National Framework for assessing children's functional needs, Draft National Autism Strategy consultation, professional capabilities guidance, gender diverse mental health support, Medicare severe disorder provisions, and consultation policy development. My advocacy extends to major policy initiatives including White Paper submissions, Productivity Commission Inquiries on social determinants of mental health and children's mental health strategy, covering education, diagnosis, early intervention, and workforce development. This extensive experience

demonstrates thorough understanding of advocacy expectations across government, regulatory, and community levels. My proven ability to mobilise membership input on complex policy issues positions me to effectively represent diverse APS member interests while advancing psychology's role in serving Australian communities.

Ability and/or aptitude to act as an Ambassador for the APS in the community and in government settings

My extensive experience positions me as an effective APS Ambassador across community and government settings. As National CEDP Chair and through two decades of experience, I have consistently represented psychology's interests in advocacy environments, demonstrating communication skills and professional credibility essential for ambassadorial roles. My direct engagement with government includes participation in AHPRA focus groups and contributions to Senate inquiries, Productivity Commission consultations, and major policy initiatives including White Papers and National Strategy developments, developing my capability to articulate psychology's value proposition while navigating complex policy landscapes. As creator and project manager of "Subject for Change: An Educational and Developmental Podcast" for the APS, I have demonstrated innovative approaches to community engagement and professional knowledge dissemination. My university advisory roles at Melbourne, ACU, and Swinburne, combined with conference leadership positions, showcase ability to represent psychology across academic and professional settings. My clinical expertise spanning government organisations (DHS-DCS, DETT), professional bodies (SPELD, ACER), and private practice provides comprehensive understanding of psychology's diverse applications across Australian communities. This breadth of experience, combined with Fellow status in both APS and CEDP, establishes the professional standing and credibility necessary to serve as an authoritative voice for the profession in government advocacy and community engagement.

Demonstrated ability to constructively resolve conflict

Throughout my extensive leadership roles within the APS, I have consistently demonstrated the ability to constructively resolve conflicts through active listening, effective communication, professionalism, empathy, and respect for diverse perspectives. My approach focuses on intentionally redirecting discussions toward our collective goals and the "bigger picture" - what we are working together to achieve - while approaching disagreements with curiosity rather than judgment. This enables identification of common ground, rather than becoming entrenched in personal differences. As National CEDP Chair and previous Victorian Chair, I have navigated complex disagreements across diverse membership interests. My experience reviving and re-energising the CEDP Victoria committee, and more recently re-igniting and forming a totally new Queensland CEDP committee, required addressing underlying tensions while building consensus around shared professional values and member service goals. My participation in the APS Presidential Consultation Taskforce involved managing differing perspectives on policy development, requiring diplomatic negotiation skills to achieve consensus. My approach to conflict resolution reflects my broader leadership philosophy of empowering teams while maintaining focus on our profession's advocacy mission. By consistently modelling collaborative approaches that honour diverse perspectives while driving strategic outcomes, I have successfully transformed challenging dynamics into productive partnerships that strengthen both organisational culture and member outcomes.

Demonstrated ability to conduct fair, respectful and ethical interactions with fellow Board members, the CEO, APS members and relevant stakeholders

Throughout my leadership roles, I have consistently approached all interactions with the values of authenticity, mutual respect, and open communication, establishing a foundation for fair and ethical engagement across all stakeholder levels. This approach is evidenced by the positive reputation the College of Educational and Developmental Psychologists has with APS National Office staff, and the productive relationships with events teams, policy personnel and other member groups within the APS. My extensive committee leadership experience, from Victorian CEDP Chair to current National Chair, has required navigating complex relationships with diverse stakeholders including Board members, CEO office, membership representatives, and external partners. Through roles such as the APS Presidential Consultation Taskforce, I have demonstrated capacity for respectful policy dialogue while maintaining professional integrity and ethical standards. As a Fellow of both APS and CEDP, I understand the ethical obligations inherent in leadership positions and consistently model professional conduct expected at governance levels. My collaborative approach to leadership, evidenced through successful conference management, financial stewardship, and strategic initiatives like the podcast development, demonstrates ability to maintain productive, respectful relationships while achieving organisational objectives and serving diverse member interests effectively.

CANDIDATE DISCLOSURES

Declaration of Interests – general

- PhD candidate, University of Melbourne.

Declaration of Interests – directorships/committee memberships

- Founder, Director, and Principal Psychologist of CW Psychological Services, a private practice established in January 2003 and founded as a company entity in 2016
- Chair, College of Educational and Developmental Psychology (CEDP), Australian Psychological Society – November 2022 to present
- Chair, National Committee for the College of Educational and Developmental Psychology (NCEDP) – November 2022 to present
- Member, Course Advisory Committee for Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental Psychology), Swinburne University – 2020 to present
- Chair, APS CEDP Committee (Victoria) – 2019 to 2022
- Member, APS Presidential Consultation Taskforce – 2024
- Placement and Practicum Coordinator, Australian Catholic University – 2018 to 2022

Declaration of Interests – APS Member Groups/Committee memberships

- Chair, College of Educational and Developmental Psychology (CEDP) – November 2022 to present
- Chair, National Committee for the College of Educational and Developmental Psychology (NCEDP) – November 2022 to present
- Chair, APS CEDP Committee (Victoria) – 2019 to 2022
- Member, APS Presidential Consultation Taskforce – 2024
- Chair, CEDP National Conference Committee – 2019 to 2021
- Member, APS 2025 Psychology Conference Committee (Gold Coast)
- Chair, APS Psychology Career Expo (Hobart, August 2025)

Declaration of Interests – other memberships

- Member, Course Advisory Committee for Master of Psychology (Educational and Developmental Psychology), Swinburne University – 2020 to present
- Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society (FAPS)
- Fellow of the College of Educational and Developmental Psychology (FCEDP)
- Member, APS Disaster Response Network
- Affiliate Member of the American Psychological Association (APA)
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Registration
- Area of Practice Endorsement for Educational and Developmental Psychology
- AHPRA Approved Accredited Supervisor
- APS/ASA Certified CBTi – Level 1 Practitioner
- Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne