

2024 APS Emerging Leaders program guide

Become a future leader in the psychology profession



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“It’s important for us to build and support the future leaders of our profession. A career in psychology is all about life-long learning.”

Dr Zena Burgess,
APS, CEO

Are you an early-career psychologist looking to add leadership skills to your toolkit? The APS Emerging Leaders Program is designed to equip you with the essential skills you’ll need to become a future leader in the psychology profession.

Program overview

The APS Emerging Leaders Program is a free, 12-month leadership development program for APS early-career psychologists.

Including both leading APS presenters and external experts in their respective leadership fields, the program aims to empower and support participants by providing them with skills and resources to become future leaders of the psychology profession.

The program includes a combination of live and pre-recorded online sessions and workshops, along with self-paced learning, group and mentor activities.

Self-directed learning

Pre-recorded modules and materials released each month.

Group reflections

Discuss and apply your learnings and assessment activities with your peers as you go, in an exclusive PsyCommunity Emerging Leaders group for participants and mentors.

Mentor activities

Participants will have access to an expert mentor to support them through the program at various points in the program.

Key Dates for Your Diary



Live Sessions

You will need to be available for four live online sessions on the following dates.

5 March 2024: Half Day Session 1pm-4pm AEST – Discover your own leadership style

Hosted by *Not For Profit Training* establish your personal leadership brand and provide essential leadership skills in the context of a committee leadership role to positively influence change.

16 April 2024: 90 Minute Session 3pm-4:30pm AEST – Industry knowledge

Join APS President Dr Catriona Davis-McCabe and APS CEO Dr Zena Burgess for an intimate online live session. Hear about the current and emerging issues, challenges and opportunities facing the profession and join in the discussion.

2 May 2024: Half Day Session 1pm-4pm AEST – Leadership without authority

Leadership expert, author and coach Andy Fell will deliver an interactive workshop to further develop leadership of self skills and influencing without authority. With a 30 year career in senior leadership roles for large organisations, Andy brings a unique and experienced take

on building winning teams even when not in a formal leadership role.

14 June 2024: Half Day Session 9:30am-1pm AEST – Difficult and necessary conversations

Hosted by Scott Dutton, co-founder of *Fighting Fair* and conflict and communication expert. Scott promises a fun session navigating challenging topics. Learn the skills and techniques for having difficult yet necessary conversations and gain confidence to manage these discussions effectively.

Time commitments

This program runs over a calendar year. Each month participants will engage with learning modules and activities that range between 4-8 hours in length.

The program framework facilitates emerging leadership skills to be applied in real-time, even if you're not in a formal leadership role yet. It will allow you to take what you learn and apply it during the program through assessment activities, peer-to-peer group discussions and a mentorship component. Participants will need to commit to all aspects of the program.

Program Outline



In order to set you up with the leadership skills required to become a future leader of the psychology profession, the program blends key leadership skills with valuable knowledge on how a peak body such as the APS works to represent our members and further the profession. Go behind the scenes and learn how to apply the leadership skills you are learning in real life.

Module 1: About the APS

This module will cover the structure, mission and values of APS, along with key functions of each team that makes up the APS. It will also cover the important roles and make up of our member groups and committees who work to best serve members and further the profession. This module intends to empower participants by equipping them with the information needed to create positive change and impact utilising and working with the APS.

Module 2: The business of Psychology

Learn how APS, as a not-for-profit organisation, fits into the wider healthcare and advocacy setting. This module will explore the business operations essential for APS to achieve its mission – to advance and advocate for the psychology profession.

Learn about the importance of a strategic plan, chairing productive meetings and forums, managing budgets and how to bring an innovative idea from concept to board paper. You will start to discover your own leadership style and how this can be applied and leveraged in the context of a committee role.

Module 3: Industry Knowledge

The Australian psychology profession is diverse and has a wide range of areas psychologists can apply their expertise to. Learn about emerging career opportunities and the different fields of psychology.

Through a live webinar with APS CEO Dr Zena Burgess and President Dr Catriona Davis-McCabe, hear about current and emerging issues, challenges and opportunities facing the psychology profession. At the end of the webinar, join in on a discussion with your peers and Dr Burgess and Dr Davis-McCabe.

Module 4: Leadership

Though leadership is the overarching theme throughout the program, this module will drill down into more detail. Leadership skills are valuable not just to executives or managers in large organisations, but also to individuals in their day-to-day work and personal lives.

Explore your own leadership style and how that can be applied in the context of a committee role.

Explore topics specific to emerging leaders, such as “leading self” and building winning teams in the context of an APS member leader.

Module 5: Stakeholder & Change Management

This half day, live online workshop will be hosted by Scott Dutton, co-founder of *Fighting Fair* and conflict and communication expert.

Participants will learn how to demonstrate the skills and techniques for having difficult yet necessary conversations. We often fear these conversations and so try to avoid it or under prepare for the conversation then blunder our way through it. Instead, this module will help you to come armed with the skills to make it go as smoothly as possible.

Learn necessary skills and gain confidence to manage these discussions effectively, utilising the Harvard Negotiation Project model.

Module 6: Representation & Engagement

In this module, participants will learn about how and why a peak body like the APS uses media, the specific strategies and tactics employed to advance the psychology profession in Australia and support APS policy positions. You will also get a better understanding of the APS spokesperson, media and social media policies.

Gain insights into government relations tactics and strategies, and how these influence government policy. Finally, you will gain an understanding of the process involved in representing the APS as a member or committee member, or when called on to represent APS at an external event.

Got a question about the APS Emerging Leaders program? Please contact:

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Program Timeline

October 2023

Applications open

November-December 2023

Participants join the program for the following year

February 2024

Program begins –
Complete Module 1

March 2024

Complete Module 2

5 March 2024

Live online session

April 2024

Complete Module 3

16 April 2024

Live online session

May 2024

Complete Module 4

2 May 2024

Live online session

June 2024

Complete Module 5

14th June

Live online session

July 2024

Complete Module 6

September 2024

Program wrap up
and graduation





For further information contact:

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