

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

*All candidate information is supplied by the candidate*



**Name: Justin Kenardy**

**Candidacy: General Director – APS Division of Psychological Research, Education and Training**

### **CANDIDATE CAPABILITY RESPONSES**

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

I am a tertiary and research sector leader and disseminator of evidence-based practice in clinical health psychology, behavioural medicine, and health service delivery. My work is outcomes focused and is engaged with health users, providers and industry. I am known for my interdisciplinary research work on the psychological aspects of illness and traumatic injuries including spinal, brain and burn injuries. This places my work at the intersection of psychology, mental health, and physical health and encompasses the development and application of preventative, integrative and novel intervention approaches. My published work of over 300 publications is across a range of populations and practical problems. This demonstrates extensive collaboration employing interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches between psychology, and medical specialities including general practice and psychiatry, physiotherapy, social work, occupational therapy, nursing, law and health economics. As one example, working with teachers I developed an evidence-based teacher training program to assist in responding to children in the classroom exposed to acute traumatic events. This training has been disseminated nationally and has also been translated and disseminated internationally in Japan after the Fukushima disaster, and also in South Africa. I am currently engaged in collaborations with psychiatry, nursing and physiotherapy.

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

I have a career-long commitment to my profession as a registered psychologist, educator and researcher. I have extensive experience in private and public sector with specialisation in anxiety, eating and trauma-related disorders. I have provided advanced training and education of several generations of clinical psychologists at the Universities of Newcastle and Queensland. Throughout my career I have always sought to advance the field of clinical psychology by seeking to continuously improve my teaching and learning practices and informing what I teach by what I do or have learned clinically and from research. I have also been very engaged with my profession through my contributions to the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council, Australian Psychological Society, Psychologists Board of Australia and

other professional organizations including Australian Society for Traumatic Stress Studies as a past president and the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies as a non-executive director. I also sit on the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal as an expert in psychological practice and ethics. I was awarded the APS Ian Campbell Award for Significant Contribution to Clinical Psychology, and the President's Award for Significant Contribution to the Profession. I am a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

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

With regards to Board experience, I have completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course (2013) and a recent Update course (2021). I served on the board of Synapse, a brain injury NFP organisation as a non-executive director. In this role I was directly involved in governance, risk assessment and management oversight, strategic planning, corporate communications, interface with regulatory agencies, and management of human resources. Consequently, I have a good understanding of the governance and fiduciary responsibilities of a non-executive director of a charity. I also served as Non-Executive Member of the Board of the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, an international professional society with 4000 members, and had shared responsibility for workforce, strategic and financial management, as well as management of the renewal of the ISTSS Journal publisher contract processes. I am also very well versed in the application of legal and legislative frameworks and the principles in practice of procedural fairness and due process. In addition, I continue to serve on the Psychology Panel of Assessors for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal where I sit on matters of professional conduct.

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

As past Director of the postgraduate clinical psychology programs at the University of Queensland and I have been responsible for strategic planning of these programs including the overall curriculum development, initiation, and management of significant restructuring and growth of the courses. As past Director of the Centre for National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine I was responsible for leading and developing and advancing strategies to promote research in health, as well as foreseeing and managing risk and opportunities, external stakeholder engagement including key funding relationships. I was also responsible for the management, development, and retention of 40 centre staff. This centre (now renamed as Recover) continues to be a successful model of internal and external research engagement. As Director of Research at the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service Queensland Department of Health I worked within the public health system and was responsible for research activities within the hospital and health service and for external engagement with the community and stakeholders. In the area of teaching and learning I have been a member of the University of Queensland Academic Board and Standing Committee undertaking advisory and review for policy and practice in teaching and learning.

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

Through my extensive experience in practice, teaching, research, and strategic and ethical oversight I have accrued a deep knowledge and understanding of psychology. This provides me with the strong base for advocacy and engagement with the community for psychology as a profession and as a science. Using this base, I have a well-developed perspective on the values and ethics that are core to psychology and bring that to any engagement. To enact this, I have extensive expertise in communication of psychology through teaching, research, organisational and public communication. A key element of successful engagement and advocacy is relationship building. I encourage direct involvement and I promote agency by those involved in any process of change. This means that these processes are "owned" by all, and this increases the potential for successful change, and sustainable outcomes. This is also the key to successful and necessary collaboration. I have had a particularly strong track record with cross and interdisciplinary collaboration. For me, conversations provide a vital starting point, but deeds must follow words. Engagement should include practical change and action for the community. Practical actions have been linked to my work in research, organisations and individual engagement.

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

I always represent myself to members of the community or those with government roles as a psychologist, and that is a matter of pride and principle. I have been a member of the APS for over 40 years and have chosen to be because I believe in the value that the APS can add to its members and to the broader society. I see the APS as embodying the twin foundations of science and practice, just as I have done throughout my career. My experience with the discipline and profession of psychology is as a practitioner, teacher, mentor, through roles on the Psychologists Board and the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council, and as a researcher. I have represented psychology into a range of other disciplines, including medical, nursing, social work, physiotherapy, policing, and law. As one example I have advocated for the inclusion of psychology in a paediatric burns unit, demonstrating its value via intervention research. At a higher

level I have engaged with government via direct input into legislative change in NSW addressing psychological injury, and through personal submission to the Queensland Parliament on the psychological impact of assault on very young children.

### **Demonstrated ability to constructively resolve conflict**

Healthy conflict is part of the process of group change and growth. For me, constructive resolution should be a shared by all group members, with all included in the process. I have always sought to resolve conflict constructively, especially within the decision-making process and I also see it as an essential element of change management. I have always sought to ensure that all involved have a voice through facilitation. Where there are barriers to change I have employed a process of issue and outcome clarification to guide problem solving, whilst ensuring all different perspectives have the opportunity to be heard and to contribute. I have had many experiences with constructive conflict resolution.

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

I have demonstrated the principles of fair, respectful and ethical interactions through my work as a leader for a research centre in which I routinely engaged with a range of stakeholders in the community, government, and private sector. In this position I always conducted fair and respectful interactions with staff, even under times of stress. When funding pressures required decisions about staffing, I always supported staff and kept them fully informed. Such decisions were undertaken in a consultative and inclusive manner. My work on decision making committees within the tertiary and regulatory sectors has always been guided by the self-imposed imperative for respect, and ethically behaviours and principles. Even when there were differences of position I have always been guided by the strategic goals of the organisation but also successfully maintained respectful relationships.

## **CANDIDATE DISCLOSURES**

### **Declaration of Interests – general**

- Editor in Chief, Australian Journal of Psychology
- Honorary Professorial Fellow, Gallipoli Medical Research Institute

### **Declaration of Interests – directorships/committee memberships**

- Scientific Program Convener, International Congress of Psychology 2028
- PTSD Clinical Guidelines Committee, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (responsible for the revision of the 4th Edition of the Clinical Guidelines of the ISTSS)
- Member, Rotary Australia Health Research Grants Review Committee (since 2018)
- Editorial Advisory Board, Cognitive and Behavioural Psychotherapy (since 2006)
- Member, National Infant & Child Disaster Mental Health Advisory Committee (since 2019)
- Child Trauma Data Archives Expert Advisory Committee (since 2010, responsible for oversight of [childtraumadata.org](http://childtraumadata.org) which is an Open Science database)
- Psychology Panel Member, Queensland Civil Administrative Tribunal (since 2018)

### **Declaration of Interests – APS Member Groups/Committee memberships**

- Fellow of the College of Clinical Psychologists
- Chair, Professional Practice Working Group

### **Declaration of Interests – other memberships**

- Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia
- Fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Science