

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

All candidate information is supplied by the candidate



Name: Kelly Gough

Candidacy: President

CANDIDATE CAPABILITY RESPONSES

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

I have built my career on collaboration across professions to improve community wellbeing. In my private practice, I work closely with GPs, psychiatrists, and allied health professionals to ensure clients receive integrated, evidence-based support. My role as clinical supervisor at the University of Western Australia extends this further, where I supervise placement students in multidisciplinary addiction services and foster connections between psychology, medicine, and community support networks. My earlier leadership roles in community drug services also gave me extensive experience coordinating with psychologists, educators, medical staff, and volunteers to deliver holistic care. These partnerships were critical to building referral pathways, shared care models, and training programs that reached vulnerable groups. My commitment has always been to practical collaboration that reduces barriers, expands access, and translates research into outcomes. I believe the APS has the reach and credibility to lead these partnerships nationally.

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

I have both extensive and current knowledge of the APS and the psychology profession, supported by leadership roles at both state and national levels. I served as WA State Treasurer and subsequently as WA Chair of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists for five years, before taking on my current role as National Chair, which I have held for the past two years. These positions have required me to work closely with other APS Colleges and the APS Board, developing a strong understanding of governance, policy processes, and the diverse needs of members across specialties. Alongside APS leadership, I maintain a strong academic and clinical presence. At the University of Western Australia and Murdoch University, I teach into postgraduate clinical and neuropsychology programs, contributing to the training of the next generation of psychologists. I also provide supervision for postgraduate students, registrars, and peers, which gives me a direct perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing psychology across the career span. I believe this combination of governance experience, academic engagement, and clinical practice ensures I bring both breadth and depth of understanding, as well as credibility and good standing within the APS and the wider psychology profession.

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

I understand that the role of a Non-Executive Director (NED) of a NFP company limited by guarantee is to provide governance, oversight, and strategic direction while acting in the best interests of the organisation and its members. A NED is responsible for ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory obligations, contributing to the development of strategy, monitoring performance, and managing risk, without involvement in day-to-day operations. Importantly, the role requires independence, accountability, and the ability to represent the interests of a diverse membership. While I have not previously held a NED role in this structure, I bring relevant governance experience. I am currently a Director and Company Secretary of my private practice, a Pty Ltd company, where I oversee compliance, financial management, and strategic planning. In addition, my leadership roles within the APS have required me to engage with APS governance processes and work with the Board in shaping policy, and organisational priorities. This combination of governance knowledge, financial oversight, and leadership experience equips me to contribute effectively as a NED within the APS framework.

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

I have demonstrated effective leadership of membership organisations that promote a strong, values-based culture. Within the APS, I have held leadership roles in the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists (CCN) at both state and national levels. The CCN's values of ethics, competence, education, research, and professional connection have guided my leadership approach. As National Chair, I have supported the committee to reinvigorate the College by restoring our annual conference program, strengthening research engagement, and expanding membership awards that recognise excellence across career stages. These initiatives will foster professional pride, enhance member connection, and demonstrate the value of community within the College. In my earlier leadership within alcohol and other drug (AOD) services, I managed multidisciplinary teams where values-based leadership was essential. I prioritised equity, client-centred care, and accountability, while building cultures of supervision, mentoring, and continuous improvement. Across APS and clinical settings, my leadership has consistently centred on aligning organisational goals with shared values, ensuring members and colleagues feel supported, recognised, and connected. I believe this approach builds strong communities that not only articulate values but actively live them in practice.

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

I have extensive experience in advocacy and a thorough understanding of its expectations, both in engaging with the wider community and with APS members. As National Chair of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists, I have advocated for recognition of the profession within the APS and externally, building partnerships with international organisations and providing support to national research and treatment programs. These initiatives have expanded opportunities for members and enhanced the profile of the APS. At a national level, I have worked with the APS Board and other Colleges to advance shared priorities, including test security, training pathways, an increased focus on member's priorities and equitable access to psychological services. My academic and clinical roles also position me as an advocate within the community: I deliver public talks, contribute to university programs at UWA and Murdoch, and supervise students and registrars, ensuring psychology is visible and accessible across the career span. Through these activities, I have developed a strong understanding of the balance advocacy requires: representing the profession confidently to government and the public, while ensuring APS members feel heard, supported, and engaged in shaping our collective voice.

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

I have demonstrated aptitude to act as an Ambassador for the APS through my leadership as National Chair of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists. In this role, I have actively built agreements with international and national organisations to enhance member benefits and raise the profile of the APS. These agreements include partnerships with the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) in the United States and the New Zealand Special Interest Group in Neuropsychology (NZSIGN). These collaborations have expanded professional development opportunities, fostered cross-border research and clinical dialogue, and strengthened recognition of the APS within the international community. In addition, I have represented the CCN and APS at national conferences, community events, and in policy discussions, where I emphasise the importance of evidence-based psychological care and the value of collaboration across health and education systems. These activities demonstrate my ability to present the APS as a credible, professional voice that is both outward-looking and responsive to the needs of members and the broader community. I bring the skills, experience, and professional standing required to represent the APS confidently with government, partner organisations, and the public, ensuring psychology's contribution is understood and valued.

Demonstrated ability to constructively resolve conflict

I have demonstrated the ability to constructively resolve conflict through leadership roles in both clinical and organisational settings. In my earlier work managing alcohol and other drug services, I led multidisciplinary teams where tensions sometimes arose around priorities, workloads, and clinical approaches. I used structured communication, clear expectations, and reflective supervision to address disagreements and maintain a respectful, client-centred culture. In co-located services, I also managed disputes over shared resources, balancing organisational needs with fairness and collaboration. These situations required negotiation, transparent decision-making, and the ability to maintain strong relationships despite differing perspectives. As Chair of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists at both state and national levels, I have similarly had to navigate diverse ideas, priorities, and goals among members. My approach has been to create space for open discussion, identify shared values, and build consensus around a collective vision. This has enabled us to move forward with unity, even when initial views were divergent. Across these roles, I have demonstrated that constructive conflict resolution requires empathy, fairness, and an emphasis on shared outcomes, ensuring that challenges become opportunities for stronger relationships and better outcomes.

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

I have consistently demonstrated fair, respectful, and ethical interactions across all of my leadership roles. As National Chair of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists, I have worked closely with the APS Board, College Chairs, and members, often navigating diverse views and priorities. I have approached these interactions with openness, professionalism, and respect, ensuring that all voices are heard and that decisions are guided by fairness and evidence. In my academic roles at UWA and Murdoch, I teach and supervise postgraduate students and registrars, which requires balancing high professional standards with empathy and encouragement. These experiences reflect my commitment to ethical conduct and my responsibility to model respectful engagement across the profession. Earlier management roles in AOD services also required regular interaction with government, community agencies, and staff, where clear communication, accountability, and integrity were essential to maintaining trust and collaboration. Across all settings, I strive to create environments where respect, fairness, and ethical conduct are not only upheld but expected. I bring this approach to every professional interaction and would continue to do so in my role on the APS Board.

CANDIDATE DISCLOSURES

Declaration of Interests – general

- Private practice
- Clinical Supervisor, University of Western Australia

Declaration of Interests – directorships/committee memberships

- Director, private practice
- Member, APAC Stakeholder Reference Group

Declaration of Interests – APS Member Groups/Committee memberships

- Chair, APS National College of Clinical Neuropsychologists Committee

Declaration of Interests – other memberships

- Member, Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment
- Member, Institute of Clinical Psychology
- Member, Australian Clinical Neuropsychology