

Australian Psychological Society | Candidate Profile | 2026 Board of Directors Election

All candidate information is supplied by the candidate



Name: Dominique Cleary

Candidacy: General Director, Division of Early Career

CANDIDATE CAPABILITY RESPONSES

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

As a Clinical Psychologist and Board Approved Supervisor, I hold a Masters in Clinical Psychology, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Western Australia. As an early career clinician I have developed a strong interest in both clinical and research roles within psychology, and value the role of the field of psychology in contributing to the mental health and wellbeing of our community. Following my training I have worked in various roles across public health in Western Australia, including roles in child development, and adolescent and adult mental health. My current role in a public hospital primarily involves psychological assessment and intervention for inpatients and outpatients of the hospital, as well as involvement in research projects relevant to the clinical work of the department with a focus on women's mental health, especially peri-natal mental health, as well as mental health support for other patient groups including oncology and pain patients. I additionally hold an Honorary Research Associate position at Murdoch University in recognition of my contributions to research activities and contribution of supervision of postgraduate students as part of joint research projects at Murdoch University.

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

I hold good standing as a member of the Australian Psychological Society, and have demonstrated active involvement in the APS over several years. I have served in a number of volunteer committee roles within the APS: commencing as a student representative, secretary, and now chair of the Western Australian Committee of Clinical Psychologists, as well as a committee member of the National APS College of Clinical Psychologists. Through these roles I have gained experience and understanding of the role and work of the APS, as well as experience working with the APS. My roles within the WA committee have provided opportunities to contribute to the psychological community: organising and delivering professional development opportunities at the local and national level, as well as involvement in advocacy projects. Through these roles within the APS, as well as clinical and research roles, I have developed an understanding of the various roles within the psychology landscape in Australia and the diverse perspectives, interests and issues that relate to these various roles. As an early career psychologist, I believe in the importance of the APS as a peak body in supporting early career psychologists, and aim to continue in my contributions to supporting this group.

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

As an early career psychologist, I do not hold experience as a non-executive director, and understand the learning and skill development that would be required to undertake this role, and would commit to developing these skills. As an early career psychologist, I am interested in being able to bring this perspective to this role, to best represent the interests of both the APS, and early career psychologists. I understand that a non-executive directors' role would be primarily to provide independent oversight, strategic guidance and governance, acting in the best interests of the organisation and its members. I would bring my experience across my clinical and research roles, and volunteer roles within the APS to this role, to act in the best interests of the APS and its diverse membership.

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

As an early career psychologist, I value the importance of good leadership in developing strong workplaces and organisations, and benefit from the experiences that I have had in teams that have had strong leaders. In the leadership opportunities that I have had, I work to develop these skills myself. Through my role as Chair of the APS WA Clinical College, I have worked hard to consider the values important to members within the APS, and within our local community, and have worked to support these. As an early career psychologist, I believe that I am well placed to represent the division of early career psychologists and would commit to continued engagement with the values and perspectives of the members of the APS, to best support our psychological community.

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

Through my roles within the APS, I have developed skills in advocacy for members, and believe that advocacy is an important role that the APS plays in supporting our profession. I recognise that the APS represents psychologists working across a wide range of practice areas, settings and career stages, and believe that the role that the APS plays in representing our profession as a whole to the broader community and to government is an important one for our profession. In my experience of contact with APS members, advocacy for the diverse and impactful roles that psychologists contribute has been raised as one of the key roles that members value from the APS. At the current time the role of advocacy to the community and to government around the role of psychology within our community feels is a high priority. I believe that a focus on collaborative and evidence-informed approach to advocacy, as well as ensuring that community needs and member interests are considered in decision-making, are of the utmost importance in continuing to ensure that our profession is represented well.

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

As an early career psychologist with experience in roles within the APS, public health and research, I believe I have the ability to act as an ambassador for the psychological community, and in particular, represent early career psychologists. Through my professional and volunteer roles I have engaged with diverse groups including clinicians, service providers, government agencies, community organisations and consumers, and believe that I could bring these skills in engaging with and representing psychology to diverse groups to representing the APS and the psychological community.

Demonstrated ability to constructively resolve conflict

Throughout my professional roles as a Clinical Psychologist, as well as roles in research, and volunteer roles within the APS, I have regularly worked with individuals, teams and stakeholders who hold differing perspectives, priorities and interests. As psychologists we all hold skills essential to approaching conflict with curiosity, respect and a focus on understanding. These skills enable me to facilitate open dialogue, identify common ground and support collaborative problem-solving. Working within a public health setting I have experience in working within multidisciplinary settings, where the resolution of different perspectives and experiences bring great value, but can require constructive conflict resolution skills to enable the best outcomes. I have well developed and clear communication skills and bring a respectful manner to navigating these situations, and would bring this approach to a board position, with the goal of valuing different perspectives, and navigating these to best serve the overall goals of the APS and its members.

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

Through my various professional and volunteer roles, I have worked in varied environments with diverse groups of people, in roles that require respect, collaboration, and adherence to ethical standards. My leadership and committee experience has required me to engage collaboratively with professionals from varied backgrounds, and manage competing interests. I value transparency and openness in these processes, and would commit to bringing a respectful and considered approach to any and all interactions in any role within the APS.

CANDIDATE DISCLOSURES**Declaration of Interests – General**

I am a registered Clinical Psychologist and a member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS), and employed by the Western Australian Health Department. I am not aware of any conflicts of interest that would prevent me from fulfilling the duties as a Board Director in an objective and ethical manner. I acknowledge my obligation to disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and to manage them in accordance with the APS's governance policies and legal requirements should they arise. Other than my stated involvement in the field of psychology, I have no interests that I believe would materially impact my ability to act in the best interests of the APS and its members.

Declaration of Interests – Directorships/Committee Memberships

- Declaration regarding APS committee memberships below
- Nil other to declare

Declaration of Interests – APS Member Groups/APS Committee Memberships

I currently serve as the Chair of the APS Western Australian Committee of Clinical Psychologists, and member of the APS national Committee of Clinical Psychologists, and am approaching the end of my term in this role. I believe that the experience in this role has benefitted my understanding of the APS, however, understand that these roles cannot be held at the same time, due to a potential conflict of interest, and given that I am reaching the end of my term, acknowledge that I will be stepping down from this role, as well as recusing myself from these positions, until such time as the 2026 election has ended.

Declaration of Interests – Other Memberships

- Nil to declare