

Gen McGlashan - Personal Statement - Application for Member Director position – Board of Directors - Australian Physiotherapy Association

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Introduction

I am pleased to submit my application for the position of Member Director on the Board of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA). With over thirty years of experience as a practising physiotherapist across diverse clinical settings in Australia, a strong commitment to advancing the profession, and a proven record of leadership within multidisciplinary teams, across APA committees and College Council, I believe I can make a valuable contribution to the ongoing strategic direction and governance of the APA.

The current health sector landscape is under pressure and there is a climate of change, however I see that this provides opportunities for physiotherapy as a profession. I would welcome the opportunity to help contribute to the strategic development, advocacy and direction of the profession.

Clinical Background and Experience

Since graduating I have dedicated my career to pursuing excellence, delivering high-quality care and advocating for best practices in physiotherapy. I have practiced across Women's Men's and Pelvic Health, Musculoskeletal, Sports, and Cardiorespiratory physiotherapy across my career, in both acute hospital and private practice settings.

I undertook Specialisation in Women's Men's and Pelvic Health achieving my Fellowship of the Australian College of Physiotherapists (FACP) in 2010.

I was a co-director of a large multi-site Women's Men's and Pelvic Health private practice for 18 years until 2023. I was also involved in teaching at both undergraduate and post-graduate level both at universities as a guest lecturer and hosting clinical placements for students.

I am currently working clinically consulting in WMPH privately and providing mentoring for WMPH practices.

Leadership and Governance Experience

Beyond clinical work, I have actively sought further upskilling in leadership, business and governance, completing the Advanced Leadership Program through Women & Leadership Australia in 2021/2, and an MBA at Deakin University 2022-4. I have been fortunate to also have opportunities within the profession:

Australian College of Physiotherapists (ACP):

Vice-president January 2023 -February 2025

College council member 2020 – February 2025

These roles have involved:

- Working as part of college executive team with the APA board, APA executive, APA college staff team and ACP council and committees to develop and work towards delivering a new career pathway across the profession
- Multiple stakeholder engagement and negotiation
- Advice and guidance on both internal and external communications

Australian Physiotherapy Association:

- Professional Practice Standards Committee 2012-2018
- Chair Professional Practice Standards Committee 2014-2016
- Chair Education Subcommittee – Career pathway development Women's Men's Pelvic Health 2017-2018

These roles combined with running a business and undertaking further professional development have given me a good understanding of risk management, financial stewardship, and ethical decision-making.

Strategic Vision for the APA

The physiotherapy profession in Australia has many opportunities, with evolving healthcare models, digital innovation, and increasing recognition of the value of allied health. I believe that the APA Board is providing strong, visionary leadership guiding our profession through this period of change, with the strategic focus on Advocacy, Education, Connection and Delivery.

My priorities as a Board member would include:

- Supporting the stated strategic focus of education via support for the delivery of a career pathway to provide lifelong fulfilling careers and a strong basis for advocacy initiatives across multiple stakeholders
- Advocating for the role of physiotherapists working to their full scope in primary, community, and preventative care contributing to equity of access and improved health for the Australian community
- Advocating for appropriate remuneration for physiotherapy services across all funders to ensure sustainability of service provision as well as sustainability of workforce
- Promoting research and evidence-based/informed practice, with a focus on translating knowledge into improved patient outcomes
- Championing digital transformation and the safe integration of new technologies in clinical practice and operations
- Fostering member engagement and transparent communication between the Board and the broader membership
- Delivering amazing member value to a connected and engaged professional community

Personal Values and Approach

My professional values are grounded in excellence, integrity, and respect. I approach my work with curiosity, humility, and a willingness to listen and learn from others. I am committed to collaborative decision-making and consensus-building, recognising that diverse perspectives and taking a broad lens leads to better outcomes.

Conclusion

I am excited by the opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction and governance of the Australian Physiotherapy Association as a Board member. I bring a combination of clinical expertise, leadership experience, governance acumen, and passion for the profession. I am committed to upholding the values of the APA and working to advance the interests of our members, patients, and improving health of the Australian community.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of serving on the APA Board and contributing to the future of physiotherapy in Australia.