



# DR MELISSA MCCONAGHY, FACP

## Candidate Statement

As a Fellow of the Australian College of Physiotherapists who has proudly promoted the profession at a national and international level for over 20 years, I am seeking to serve on the board and help guide the future direction of the APA.

### What I stand for

1. I will work hard to strengthen the career opportunities for Physiotherapists through the Career Pathway and by securing extended and advanced scope of practice to retain & remunerate physios in the profession longer
2. I will advocate heavily for broader and continued consumer campaigns to stand us apart from and above our counterparts
3. I will work hard to promote the integrity, scope and value of physiotherapy within the NDIS
4. I will work hard to ensure that the APA membership represents 100% of Physiotherapists

What I bring most to the board is a deep working knowledge of physiotherapy across private practice, NDIS and accreditation, licensing in international markets and building exercise and education for online markets, for which I have won several awards for service and impact as a Physiotherapist.

I have the requisite business, strategy and leadership skills to join the board and good APA corporate knowledge across national groups, branch and College as past Chair and National representative of the NSW Neuro Group, current NSW Branch Councilor, Specialist, Examiner and Facilitator. I look forward to your consideration.

## AWARDS

- Australian Physiotherapist of the Year, Allied Health Awards 2019
- NSW Branch Council Contribution to the Profession Award 2019
- Small Business Champions Australian Entrepreneur of the Year 2020
- HESTA IMPACT award for my contribution to health in 2022

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Fellow of the Australian College of Physiotherapists, (Specialist Neurological Physiotherapist) 2010
- Titled Neurological Physiotherapist, 2009
- Master of Health Science (Neurological Physiotherapy), 2009
- Graduate Certificate of Public Health, 2005
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy), 2000

## CONTRIBUTIONS

- UNSW Neurological Physiotherapy Curriculum working group member 2022/21
- INPA Director of Practice Working group 2022/21
- APA NSW Branch Councilor 2022/19
- Australian College of Physiotherapists Examiner 2022
- Australian College of Physiotherapists Facilitator 2022
- Clinical Advisory Board, Polio Australia 2022/10
- APA National Neuro. Committee Rep & Chair 2013/05

## Professional Background

### Australian College of Physiotherapists

I have a working knowledge of the Titling and Specialisation Career Pathway and how this relates to recognition, remuneration and opportunities within the medical model. Within the college I am a:

- Fellow
- Registrar Facilitator
- Examiner

Given the Career Pathway goes hand in hand with extended and advanced scope of practice, I would work hard to build on the foundations of this work.

### NDIS

Having been involved in the roll out of the NDIS in Sydney since 2017 and having serviced thousands of participants within my teams I am acutely aware of

- the positives and negatives of the scheme
- how physiotherapy and allied health is positioned
- the huge role that advocacy plays in securing a strong future for our profession in this space

I applaud the advocacy that the APA has provided to date but am under no illusion that the end is in sight and would work hard to support further efforts in this space.

### Management and high-level leadership

I am the founder and CEO of two companies and manage a team of 130 staff here in Australia and internationally across

- two large clinics
- a home and telerehab service
- annual online conference
- neurological education and training business
- international licensing arm.



## CONFERENCES & COURSES

- PD Warrior Instructor  
Courses: Australia, Canada, UK, Spain 2015 - 2022
- INSIGHT into PD Conference Keynote 2018 - 2022
- APA Gerontology Course – Parkinson's and other Movement Disorders 2018 - 2022
- Introduction to Parkinson's disease – various HETI Grant awardees 2016 - 2022
- British Geriatric Society Autumn Conference invited speaker, UK 2017
- Regional Movement Disorders Review - Invited speaker, VIC 2017
- ACPIN Conference invited speaker – UK 2017
- STADA PD Nurses Networking Seminar: Melbourne 2017
- International Polio Conference: Sydney 2018, 2016
- Northern Rivers Rural Seminar: MoveIT for Parkinson's - Invited Speaker 2016
- Polio Australia Clinical Education Workshops 2016
- Integrated Orthotic Management of the Stroke Client: Sydney 2015

## Professional Background

### Education

- UNSW Neurological Physiotherapy Curriculum working group - current
- Associate/clinical lecturer positions - University of Sydney, Macquarie University and TAFE NSW
- Involved in five student honours research projects
- Personally taught more than 2000 physiotherapists across a range of neurological topics
- Invited speaker at several national and international conferences
- Extensive delivery of telerehab and online exercise and education programs since 2014 servicing more than 3500 people through these programs internationally.
- Launched several online courses for allied health professionals with my team across Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis and Functional Neurological Disorders

### Innovation

- Commissioned and built a bespoke software program to address a gap in our Practice Management Software
- Built an app for Parkinson's in 2014 which has since been decommissioned and is almost ready for re-launch
- Founded a program for people with Parkinson's that is now licensed internationally in 10 countries, in four languages and has been taught to over 5000 physiotherapists globally
- Founded an online annual conference for Parkinson's in 2018 attracting between 5000 to 10,000 delegates (including 30% physiotherapy and other health professionals) each year and raised nearly \$200,000 for global charity partners
- Pioneered a six-month internship model in 2019 with two universities in their DPT and Bachelor courses respectively which has been adopted in several other clinics
- Purchased the first End-effector robotic gait training device in Australia and am a strong advocate for advancing the use of technology in rehabilitation

## PUBLICATIONS

- The New Parkinson's Treatment: Exercise is Medicine, 2014, 2018 (revised edition) Simon and Schuster

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Studio 10, Channel 10
- Today Extra, Channel 9
- 2GB Radio
- Channel 10 National News
- Channel 9 National News
- A Current Affair
- When Life Gives you Parkinson's
- APA Inmotion
- Health Times
- Health Industry Hub
- Parkinson's Life
- North Shore Times
- Manly Daily
- Wentworth Courier
- A Neuro Physio Podcast
- Human Tech Podcast
- The Physio Business Growth Podcast



## Recent Employment



### PD Warrior - Director & Founder (2015 - Current)

PD Warrior is an exercise program designed to help people with Parkinson's Live Brave. PD Warrior offers a consumer program online and face-to-face through licensed facilities across 10 countries and delivered in four languages. PD Warrior is also the host of the globally recognised INSIGHT into PD annual conference.



### Advance Rehab Centre - Director & Founder (2006 - Current)

Advance Rehab Centre is a neurological, multidisciplinary service known for its clinical excellence and pioneering rehab programs. Located in Sydney, ARC operates across two purpose-built rehab centres and a home and telerehab service.

- 2021 Telstra Best of Business National Finalists
- 2020 Australian Allied Health Awards Private Practice Team Culture Award
- 2019 Australian Allied Health Awards Private Practice Excellence Award

[For more information please click here](#)