

Antony Hirst: Nomination for the position of board member

Personal Statement

I am seeking your vote in the current elections for positions on the board of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA).

Through all my years of working as a physiotherapist, I have always maintained a desire to ensure that when I leave the profession, it is in a better place than when I first entered it. The association is made up of a wide variety of physiotherapists with different interests, expertise, aspirations and backgrounds. As a candidate for the board, I am acutely aware of the need to represent ALL members fairly, honestly and without hesitation. All board members represent the entire profession and if I am successful, I will uphold such responsibility in a professional and ethical manner.



I am pursuing a position on the board as the ultimate way to give back to the profession that has given so much to me. I want to make sure my passion, experience and knowledge benefits those individuals who follow me into the profession. I believe quality custodianship is an important aspect of all organisations and I feel I can uphold the expectations of my fellow members. I would like to see an increased focus on public awareness of physiotherapy, the economic value of physiotherapy and career pathways within our profession. I am also acutely aware of the importance and need of ongoing research relating to all aspects of patient care.

I am delighted to see our profession embrace ideas that were once discussed in hushed tones. I believe we need to continue to be confident in voicing our views on our talents and value them accordingly.

Since graduating in 1992, I have been constantly advocating for the sustainability of the physiotherapy profession and further, I have been an active member of the APA for 34 years. I am now in the fortunate position (having sold [Beleura Health Solutions](#) to Zenitas Healthcare) of being able to dedicate the necessary time and energy to such a significant and important position of responsibility for our association.

What I can bring to the board:

- Time, energy and dedication
- A forward thinking and innovative perspective
- Experience and a passionate understanding of the challenges physiotherapists face
- A keen sense of responsibility and custodianship

I have been directly involved in the following:

- Current Chair of the National Business Group
- National Business Group Vice Chairperson - 4 years
- National Business Group committee member - 4 years
- Victorian Business Group Chairperson - 4 years
- Victorian Business Group Vice Chairperson - 4 years

- Victorian Business Group committee member - 4 years
- Negotiations with Workcover in Victoria to improve conditions for physiotherapists
- Negotiations with Transport Accident Commission (TAC)
- Assisting the APA in gaining greater insight into clinic sustainability and economic value
- Presenting roles at state and national conferences
- Represented the physiotherapy profession in publications such as The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald, Business Review Weekly and The Australian Financial Review.

I have considerable experience both from within the physiotherapy profession and outside of working with committees and boards of directors in a collaborative fashion to achieve the best interests for the members. This is best evidenced by the recent completion of the [hourly rates project for the provision of physiotherapy services](#) for which I was the instigator and main driver of as being part of the national business group committee. This is a major piece of work for which the profession will benefit and I'm proud of my achievements and involvement in seeing this to fruition.

My professional time is split between commercial consultations to physiotherapy clinics to improve their viability and patient clinical roles. My [consultancy work](#) within the physiotherapy profession focuses on strategic planning, development of risk analysis and looking towards the future in a collaborative way. I have a genuine passion for this, not only because I am able to help people but more importantly, I can influence the profession in a positive way. I'm also a panel member on the [Health Business Thrive Cast](#).

Outside of the profession, I have volunteered my time as president (2016-2024) of the [Mornington District Basketball Association](#) overseeing more than 50 professional colleagues and approximately 6,000 members. During my time as the President, I upheld the organisational values of community, transparency, respect, integrity, sportsmanship and accountability whilst also being forward thinking and committed to meeting the overall goals of the association.

Personally, I live on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, I have been married for 30 years and I have three children aged 26, 24 and 20 years old. I am a keen ocean swimmer and I love to travel when I can. My other interests include improving my dad jokes (it isn't going well) and watching my children grow up . I am a long time member of Kingston Heath Golf Club (39 years) and the Melbourne Cricket Club (35 years) and love immersing myself in the culture of Melbourne.

I would greatly appreciate your vote and support and I look forward to working hard on behalf of all fellow members. Please feel free to contact me at any time via the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Antony Hirst

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