

Australian
Psychological Society
**Member Benefits
and Services Guide**

Welcome to the Australian Psychological Society (APS)

The APS is the largest professional association for psychologists in Australia, representing more than 16,500 members. Its mission is to represent, promote and advance psychology within the context of improving community wellbeing and scientific knowledge.

This guide outlines the many benefits and services available for members of the Australian Psychological Society. Members are encouraged to be active within the Society, and to take advantage of the many benefits and services on offer.

Members could also use this booklet to inform non-APS psychologists about the extensive range of benefits and services available.

“We need to keep a strong single voice as psychologists – look at what has been achieved with the recent Medicare win. At an individual level, the APS can advise on practice, ethical and educational issues plus arrange competitive malpractice and indemnity insurance.”

Susan Nicholson MAPS
Member since 1980

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APS membership working for and with you

Membership of the APS provides more than a membership number. It offers real benefits and services to complement your work as a psychologist.

APS members are recognised as highly qualified, due to the APS commitment to maintaining high standards and ethical practice.

Being part of the APS allows you to engage in an active and growing organisation as well as connecting you with fellow members in similar fields of special interest. The APS has the tools to support and enhance its members in the wider community.

The APS provides essential professional support in areas ranging from ethical advice to professional practice issues to business marketing, in addition to offering promotional materials and a broad range of resources.

Representation and community wellbeing

The APS supports psychologists across all workplace settings, and is committed to consulting and liaising with government, public and private bodies, the media and other professional associations on behalf of the profession.

The APS is a development partner in a number of Government mental health initiatives, which brings psychological knowledge, expertise and high standards to frameworks for service provision in the community.

For more information about the Society's many initiatives, covering health, mental health, education, social issues and many others, refer to the News and Events section on the home page of the website.

Opportunities for member involvement

Members' contributions are very significant for the Society's operations, reflected in the numerous opportunities to become involved with the workings of the Society. Members' contributions ensure that a diverse range of opinions are considered in policy making.

Members are represented on a large number of Board Advisory Groups, Taskforces, Reference Groups, Conference Organising Groups, and Committees. Members may also stand for election to Office-bearer positions of Branches, Colleges, or Interest Groups.

Member benefits and services

Professional resources

APS website – www.psychology.org.au

A vital resource for all members, the APS website features a special member-only portal that allows members to access ethical guidelines and resources for practice management, psychological interventions, and public sector practice. Privacy resources, information on Medicare as well as regular updates on PD events have proved very popular and beneficial amongst members.

The site also acts as a powerful public awareness tool. It is constantly updated to feature latest news, media releases and events, and provides information about the role and mission of the APS.

Ethical advice and guidelines



The *Code of Ethics* is designed to safeguard the welfare of consumers of psychological services and the integrity of the psychological profession. Members are required to abide by the Code. A large range of ethical guidelines has also been developed to assist members in specific work contexts, and with particular client groups. The *Code of Ethics* and *Ethical Guidelines* are available in booklet form, and on the APS website.

“The APS has a number of critical key roles – advocating the profession in the broader community; providing PD and networking activities for members; ensuring professional standards and ethics are not only maintained, but promoted effectively; and finally providing effective linkages between members and consumers of psychological services.”

Simon Brown-Greaves MAPS
Member since 1982

Consultation

APS staff assist members with ethical dilemmas, professional practice problems, and workplace issues. They draw on relevant resources such as the *Code of Ethics*, *Ethical Guidelines*, and APS Position Papers. There are now designated staff employed at the National Office to provide support to members working in the public sector, in private practice and in schools. Please contact the Professional Issues department.

Academic resources

A designated section of the website provides resources relevant to academics, including science updates, research opportunities, psychosocial impact statements, and academic members' publications. These are available at:

www.psychology.org.au/academic_resources/

Charter for clients

Ideally displayed in consulting rooms, the Charter for clients of psychologists has been designed to outline clearly the rights of clients, and what they can expect from consulting a psychologist.

The charter can be found on the website at:

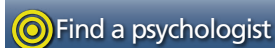
www.psychology.org.au/membership/ethics

APS 'Find a Psychologist' service

The APS Find a Psychologist service enables the general public and health professionals to find psychologists in private practice across Australia, simply and efficiently. The service can be accessed at www.findapsychologist.org.au or via telephone on 1800 333 497.

Being listed on Find a Psychologist offers members the opportunity to increase their client base. Members are able to join this service online via 'Manage your Membership' at:

www.psychology.org.au/Members/LogIn



Malpractice insurance

Combined malpractice, public and products liability insurance is offered to members at substantially reduced rates. Download a proposal form from the following link:

www.psychology.org.au/membership/benefits/

Malpractice Insurance **AON**

Recommended fee schedule

To assist members in private practice, the APS publishes annually a recommended fee schedule for the provision of psychological services. This schedule is not prescriptive and members may set their own fees. The schedule can be found at:

www.psychology.org.au/prac_resources/practice_management/fees

PsychXchange website – www.psychxchange.com.au

The PsychXchange website specifically advertises national and international employment and business opportunities for psychologists. It also has a classifieds section for advertisements related to psychological practice, such as availability of consulting rooms, and psychological tests.



Membership Directory

For networking and reference purposes, a list of APS members with the grades, Honorary Fellow, Fellow, Member and Associate Member is available for members in a member-only section of the APS website: www.psychology.org.au/memberdirectory

Member communications



InPsych, the bulletin of the APS

The bi-monthly magazine *InPsych* is the primary means of communication between the Society and its members. As the voice of the APS, the magazine contains features, profiles, and professional information on a diverse range of interests and specialisations.

APS Matters

APS Matters is a fortnightly alert distributed via email to all members. It contains news of current APS activities and a guide to new material on the APS website.

Newsletters

Newsletters are produced bi-monthly in each State and Territory, and feature local news and information about forthcoming events.

"It is essential for psychologists to be united and join their professional organisation. The APS provides the opportunity to interact with psychologists in my field and many other areas. I can keep up-to-date and informed on professional matters."

Janet Williams FAPS
Member since 1969

Publications

Australian Journal of Psychology

An APS publication, the *Australian Journal of Psychology* is a highly respected source of topical scientific and research articles. The *Combined Abstracts of Australian Psychology Conferences* is produced annually and includes abstracts from major Australian psychology conferences that take place during the year.

Australian Psychologist

Also published by the APS, the *Australian Psychologist* is a journal containing high quality research relevant to the application and practice of psychology. Online access to the *Australian Journal of Psychology* and the *Australian Psychologist* journals is available to members at no charge, and can be found at: www.psychologist/publications/journals

APS College journals

Several Colleges publish journals to showcase research in their specific area of interest. The following journals are currently available through the APS:

- *Clinical Psychologist*;
- *The Australian Educational and Developmental Psychologist*;
- *The Australian Journal of Counselling Psychology*;
- *The Australian Community Psychologists*; and
- *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Organisational Psychologists* (online only).

Discount on international publications

All members are entitled to a discounted subscription to several international journals. These include:

- all journals of the British Psychological Society;
- all journals of the American Psychological Association; and
- The *Annual Review of Psychology* published by Annual Reviews Inc.

Submission/position papers

The APS draws on members' input through working parties, State Committees, Branches, Colleges, and Interest Groups to bring many key issues to the attention of government and the broader community by researching and compiling submission papers and position papers. These papers contribute to formal APS policies on issues that are communicated to members, policy makers and the general public. They can be found at: www.psychology.org.au/publications/position_papers

Tip sheets

User-friendly Tip sheets provide clients with psychological assistance on a range of common psychological issues. They are a great resource for private practitioners and other health professionals, especially GPs. Tip sheets are available for purchase from the APS or can be viewed on the APS website at: www.psychology.org.au/publications/tip_sheets

Annual Report

The APS Annual Report is produced at the conclusion of each financial year and mailed to all members at least 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Annual Report includes the significant events that took place during the preceding year, as well as reporting on the financial position of the APS.

APS books

The APS has a limited stock of book titles to purchase. For up-to-date details regarding available titles please go to: www.psychology.org.au/publications/books

Education and training

Psychology training accreditation program

The Australian Psychology and Accreditation Council (APAC) was established by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Psychologists Registration Boards of Australasia (CPRB), and the APS. APAC has a rigorous system of accreditation of university psychology courses, which ensures that standards of psychology training are maintained and remain at a high level. Through this process APAC ensures that the courses provide suitable preparation for students to enter the profession. Students must complete accredited courses to be accepted for registration. A list of APAC-accredited courses is available at: www.apac.psychology.org.au

Assessment of psychology qualifications

Individuals seeking assessment of their psychology qualifications (obtained overseas or in Australia) – for the purpose of migration, registration, gaining employment in Australia, or entrance to psychology programs in Australian universities – may use the assessment of psychology qualifications service. For a fee, qualifications are assessed for equivalence with those obtained through APAC-accredited psychology programs.

APS Awards

The APS offers a range of Awards each year that encourage and recognise excellence in psychology. These include recognition of distinguished contributions, early career achievements and outstanding student performance.

Professional Development

Professional Development (PD) is a requirement of ongoing APS membership for Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members and Associate Members. To support this requirement, the APS offers an extensive program of high quality seminars, symposia and workshops.

Audio/video PD library

The APS has an audio/video library that includes keynote addresses and workshops from APS conferences, showcasing a selection of eminent Australian and international speakers. Useful resources for teaching and research, VHS tapes, DVDs, audio tapes or CDs can also be used to accrue PD points.

Networking – APS Member Groups

APS 'Member Groups' is the umbrella term for the various groups that members may join within the APS. They consist of Branches, Colleges and Interest Groups.

APS Branches

The APS Branch structure provides the opportunity for members to network and communicate with colleagues in their local area. All members of the APS automatically become members of their local Branch, based on their mailing address. To find your local Branch, visit: www.groups.psychology.org.au/branches/

APS Colleges

The APS has nine Colleges representing specialty areas within the psychology profession. Member status of an APS College requires the completion of a Doctorate of Psychology in the specialist field, or the completion of a Master of Psychology in the specialist field plus 80 hours of stipulated Professional Development activities. College application forms are available from the APS website on the relevant College web pages:
www.groups.psychology.org.au/colleges/

APS Interest Groups

The APS currently has 27 Interest Groups which are open to all membership grades. Interest Groups support members in pursuit of particular interests within the domain of psychology. Interest Groups may also contribute to APS submissions and policy documents. Application forms to join an Interest Group are available from the APS website at: www.groups.psychology.org.au/igs/

Events

APS Annual Conference

Held in a different location each year, the APS Annual Conference aims to encompass the diversity of the discipline and profession of psychology, and offer an outstanding scientific program. Featuring nationally and internationally renowned speakers and presenters, the Annual Conference is an opportunity for members to expand their knowledge and network with colleagues.



"The APS works for its members and the community through advocacy and providing professional support and advice. There is a sense of security in being able to access this wisdom and being part of a professional identity."

Ailsa Drent FAPS
Member since 1969

Other conferences

The APS provides support and assists in the co-ordination of a number of specialist conferences, such as the Industrial and Organisational Psychology Conference, and the Forensic Psychology Conference. In 2010 the APS will host the International Congress of Applied Psychology in Melbourne, a world-wide event which brings together thousands of psychologists every four years.

National Psychology Week

National Psychology Week is an ongoing annual event, which is organised by the APS and held in the second week of November each year.

National Psychology Week aims to:

- Generate an understanding of the services psychologists offer, the range of issues they can help with, and the benefits of their services;
- Create positive awareness of psychologists within the general community, and other health professions; and
- Inform people that for high-quality psychological services, they should seek an APS member.

Throughout the week, all members are encouraged to promote the benefits of psychology within their local community. Through media coverage, displays and exhibits, public lectures and forums, National Psychology Week has become highly successful in raising public awareness about psychology and psychologists.



“Being a member offers a psychologist (or student) the ability to meet other psychologists in a variety of different areas such as APS Peer Support Groups, conferences and various College functions. The APS provides support, opportunities, and social events which may enrich our professional learning as well as our networking opportunities. And you can make some great friends too who share your interest in psychology.”

**Sally-Anne McCormack MAPS
Member since 2005**

Marketing materials

Business marketing – ‘Good Thinking Program’

The Good Thinking Program is available for no charge to those with the grade of Member of the Society. The Program aims to assist Members to promote themselves as APS psychologists in the marketplace by encouraging recognition of the APS brand and the value of seeing an APS psychologist.

Displaying the Good Thinking logo gives clients extra reassurance that they are dealing with a highly qualified professional. Logos can be included on stationery, brochures, signs, websites and in advertisements.

Other benefits of the Good Thinking Program include Good Thinking branded products and resources to assist Members in marketing their practice. New products are added each year and program members receive significant discounts on these and other APS publications. Information about the program can be found at: www.psychology.org.au/prac_resources/practice_management/good_thinking

Effective media techniques guide

This guide examines the major factors members should consider when interacting with the media. Designed for APS members, it provides information on how the media operates, opportunities to capitalise on, and the pitfalls to avoid. A copy can be ordered from: www.psychology.org.au/publications

Brochures

To assist members in their professional capacity, the APS produces a wide range of brochures explaining the various areas of psychological specialisation and membership issues. There are also general *APS Psychologist* marketing brochures for the public and medical practitioners.

APS Advantage package

The APS Advantage package offers an extensive range of personal benefits that provides APS members with preferential rates and services from a range of leading providers listed at: www.psychology.org.au/membership/benefits

APS Gold Credit Card from American Express®

American Express offers APS members a competitive Gold Credit Card product with superior benefits and with one of the most valuable rewards programs in the marketplace.



APS AMP Affinity home loan offer

This offer can save you thousands of dollars on a home loan and includes discounts of up to 0.75% p.a. off AMP's Standard Variable Rate and Line of Credit Home Loans and 0.15% off AMP's Fixed Rate Home Loans for loans greater than \$250,000.



Qantas Club membership

Benefits include heavily discounted membership of The Qantas Club, which includes access to Qantas Club lounges in all major Australian and international airports and complimentary membership of the Qantas Frequent Flyer program.



Hertz discounted rental rates

Hertz and APS have introduced free Hertz #1 Club Gold memberships, which provides express service and exclusive offers. Members also receive discounted rates as part of the partnership with Hertz.



ING – Professionals Life and Living Benefit Plan

The plan provides up to \$1 million in life insurance protection, plus an optional Living Benefit that, in the event of a defined critical illness, pays a lump sum of 50% of the cover selected.



ING – Professionals Income Protection Plan

The Professionals Income Protection Plan pays a regular monthly benefit of up to 75% of your income, up to a maximum of \$20,000 every month for up to two years, if you are unable to work due to injury or illness.

Affinisure – Motor and Home Insurance

Two new member benefits offering quality, affordable insurance products for APS members.



Governance and management

The Board of Directors governs the Society and has overall responsibility for pursuing its Mission, determining the Strategic Plan and priorities, monitoring implementation and developing a resource base to enable its achievement. The Board is the ultimate decision-making and policy-setting body. It is also responsible for the financial viability of the Society and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements applicable to a company.

The President and all other non-executive Directors are elected by members of the Society to act in what the Board considers are the best interests of the Society, being the interests of the membership as a whole.

The APS National Office is based in Melbourne's CBD and has a staff of over 80 permanent and project employees. The role of the APS National Office is to implement the Strategic Plan set by the APS Board of Directors. The Office is managed under the guidance of the Executive Director, providing the link with the Board. The activities of the National Office are undertaken by various staff teams, with a manager and personnel appointed to each team. The National Office has a large number of professional and academic psychologists on staff who contribute their expertise to guide the work of the APS.

Contact the APS

For membership and all other enquiries, please contact the APS National Office.

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Membership

Below is a list of the most common grades of APS membership. Membership grades differ in eligibility requirements, and subscription amounts. For a full listing, refer to the APS website at: www.psychology.org.au/membership/applying/

Type of Membership	Requirements	Postnominals
Member	Standard pathway: completion of an APAC-accredited six-year sequence of study in psychology, made up of a four year APAC-accredited course in psychology, followed by either a two-year APAC-accredited postgraduate coursework degree, or a postgraduate research degree (minimum two years full time) in psychology.	MAPS
Associate Member	Completion of an APAC-accredited four-year course in psychology.	Assoc MAPS
Student Subscriber	Current enrolment in an APAC-accredited course in psychology, or a postgraduate research degree in psychology.	Not applicable

Fellow of the APS

Members may be elected to the grade of Fellow which recognises outstanding contributions to the APS and to the advancement of psychological knowledge or practice. Applications for this grade are considered once per year.

