

Australian Political Studies Association - Policy Studies Research Group

CONSTITUTION

Formation

The Policy Studies Research Group is a specialist group of the Australian Political Studies Association.

Purpose

The Policy Studies Research Group aims to promote, and advocate for, research on public policy and administration across Australia and internationally. The Group accommodates allied and intersecting research interests from public administration, political science, geography, economics, sociology, international relations and beyond. It embraces diversity in participation from all career levels; from PhD students and early-career researchers to mid-career and senior scholars. The Group supports engagement with those who work as practitioners in government, private sector, not-for-profit, and other policy settings.

The Policy Studies Research Group administers the APSA-ANZSOG Policy Studies Prize on behalf of the Australian Political Studies Association.

Membership

Any current member of the Australian Political Studies Association is eligible to be a member of the Policy Studies Research Group.

Members are expected to be respectful and inclusive in their dealings with Specialist Group's events, activities, and its members.

The APSA Executive reserves the right to rescind the membership of any member of the group.

Annual General Meeting

The Policy Studies Research Group will hold a general meeting for its membership once a year, usually in conjunction with the Australian Political Studies Association annual conference.

The AGM will cover, but is not limited to, the following business:

- a report of activities over the previous 12 months
- forward planning of activities
- elections of convenors (as appropriate)
- financial report

The business of the AGM will be chaired by one of the convenors.

Convenors and Organising Committee

The organising committee of the Policy Studies Research Group will typically consist of a Chair, a Treasurer, and other convenors, to be selected by the Group's members who are present at the Annual General Meeting. In selecting members of the organising committee, the Group will strive for gender parity, as well as other forms of representation of diversity, as much as is possible.

Term length is typically two years and convenors can nominate to continue in their role at the end of each term. Convenors will be elected by the specialist group membership, every two years. The method for electing convenors shall be decided by the membership.

The main duties of the convenors will be to:

- Organise events and opportunities for research dissemination and networking for members
- Seek input from members on future activities
- Convene panels for the specialist group at the APSA annual conference
- Oversee dedicated funds for the group's activities
- Coordinate, as necessary, activities with the APSA Executive
- Set up and assist any working groups established by the members to undertake specific tasks or activities (e.g. the reading group)
- Direct the activities of the Australian and New Zealand Public Policy Network, as detailed below.

Australia and New Zealand Public Policy Network

The Policy Studies Research Group will maintain an interest in the Australia and New Zealand Public Policy Network (PPN). The organising committee of the Policy Studies Research Group will assist in finding a host institution for the annual PPN conference, and will advise the PPN conference organisers as required.

Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by 2/3 vote of current members in good standing, to be voted upon at an annual general meeting of the Group.

Dissolution of the Specialist group or Caucus

- The specialist group can be dissolved if (1) there is unanimous agreement amongst the convenor group and (2) a majority of members support the dissolution
- Upon dissolution, all monies held by the group will be returned to APSA.

General Matters

Specialist Groups and Caucuses that exist within the Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) have no independent legal status. Specialist Groups and Caucuses are expected to always operate in good faith with APSA, its members and the APSA Executive.

Specialist Groups and Caucuses are subject to APSA's rules and any decisions made by the APSA Executive. The operation and governance of Specialist Groups and Caucuses must conform to the rules laid out in APSA's constitution, its rules and any of its related frameworks, guidelines, policies or funding rules. This constitution may be subject to amendment by the APSA Executive at any time.

In relation to Specialist Groups and Caucuses, any decisions made by the APSA Executive are final and decisions made by the APSA Executive override any of the provisions outlined in this constitution. This includes the right to review, merge or terminate any aspect of a Specialist Group, Caucus, or any other group acting under its auspices, at any time (including but not limited to matters such as their membership, funding, operation or disbandment).