Position Description

Position title:	Senior Health Economist
Division:	Policy and Government Relations
Location:	Open to applicants Australia Wide | APA Office | Hybrid
Reports to:	Strategy and Policy Specialist
Direct Reports:	Nil
EFT:	0.6 - 0.7 FTE
Approved by:	CEO
Date approved:	July 2026

About us

The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) is the peak body representing the interests of more than 35,000 physiotherapists in Australia. It does so by advocating for access to quality physiotherapy services, providing leadership in the wider health landscape, creating lifelong information and learning opportunities for members, and working with stakeholders to support members' interests.

APA is proud to be a 5-Star Employer of Choice, Winner of the 2022 Association of the Year award and have a vibrant and inclusive working culture that is under pinned by our core values:

Accountability | Excellence | Collaboration | Courage | Respect.

The APA provides a variety of employee benefits:

- Hybrid working environment.
- Three additional gifted days of leave at the end of the year.
- Birthday leave.
- A dedicated mental health leave day.
- Access to discounts and savings through a range of corporate partner programs.
- Ongoing professional development and learning opportunities.
- Access to Employee Assistance Programs .

…and much more.

About the role

This specialist role within Policy and Government Relations (PGR) combines health economics and analytical expertise to support the delivery of the Policy and Advocacy Blueprint.

Working closely with the General Manager, Policy and Government Relations, Strategy and Policy Specialist, Senior Business Advisor, and Policy Manager, the Health Economist contributes specialist economic and analytical expertise to support the development of evidence-based policy positions, advocacy priorities and reform proposals.

Working under the strategic direction of the Strategy and Policy Specialist across the Blueprint, the role provides the economic analysis and modelling that underpins major policy statements, reform initiatives and advocacy positions. This includes assessing health funding arrangements, workforce trends, service utilisation and health system performance to identify opportunities, risks and policy implications.

The role plays an important part in strengthening the evidence base for the profession by developing analyses and economic models that demonstrate the value of physiotherapy to patients, the health system and the Australian economy, and by supporting the development of major policy statements, reform proposals and advocacy positions.

This role may be undertaken from any Australian location and is offered on a 0.6 - 0.7 FTE basis.

Reporting to the Strategy and Policy Specialist, the Health Economist supports strategic policy development and government engagement activities through the provision of robust, credible and practical economic evidence.

Key Relationships

- Strategy and Policy Specialist
- General Manager, PGR
- Senior Business Advisor
- Policy Manager, Senior Policy Advisor and and Policy Advisors
- APA members and representative groups
- Government departments and agencies
- Academic and research partners
- Professional associations, consultants and other subject matter experts

Key Responsibilities

The following accountabilities broadly define the role expectations of this position:

Economic Analysis and Evidence Development

- Undertake economic analysis, modelling and research to support policy development, advocacy priorities and reform proposals.
- Develop economic models and evidence that demonstrate the value of physiotherapy services, including impacts on patient outcomes, workforce participation, healthcare utilisation, health expenditure and health system performance.
- Analyse health funding, utilisation and workforce data to identify trends, opportunities and risks relevant to the profession and healthcare system.
- Support the development of evidence-based pricing, remuneration and funding positions through economic modelling and analysis.
- Assess the costs, benefits and implications of proposed policy reforms, funding initiatives and workforce interventions, including monitoring developments in healthcare funding, pricing and system reform.
- Translate complex economic findings into clear and practical insights that support decision-making, advocacy and stakeholder engagement.
- Develop and maintain strategic economic evidence, datasets, analytical frameworks and modelling approaches that strengthen APA's advocacy and policy influence.

Policy and Advocacy Support

- Provide economic input into policy papers, position statements, consultation responses, briefing notes and submissions.
- Support the development of major policy statements, reform proposals and advocacy positions through the provision of economic analysis, modelling and evidence.
- Contribute to business cases, funding proposals and advocacy initiatives that demonstrate the value of physiotherapy and its contribution to improved health outcomes and system sustainability.
- Assist in quantifying the patient, workforce, economic and health system impacts of policy proposals and advocacy priorities, including annual budget submissions and government consultations.
- Contribute economic analysis and advice across the Policy and Advocacy Blueprint to support evidence-based policy development and advocacy activities.
- Present economic findings and evidence-based insights to executive leaders, government stakeholders and member groups in clear and practical terms.

Other Requirements

- Undertake interstate travel as required to support policy, advocacy and stakeholder engagement activities.
- Participate in organisation-wide initiatives and projects as required.

About you and selection criteria

You are an experienced health economist or analyst with strong analytical capability and a demonstrated ability to apply economic evidence to healthcare funding, workforce and reform issues.

You are comfortable working with complex datasets, developing economic models and translating technical findings into clear and practical insights that support policy development and advocacy.

You bring an understanding of the Australian healthcare system and its funding arrangements and can develop evidence that supports effective advocacy, investment decisions and health system improvement.

You work effectively with policy, research and subject matter experts, contributing specialist expertise within a collaborative environment.

You are motivated by the opportunity to demonstrate the value of physiotherapy to patients, the health system and the Australian economy.

You hold relevant tertiary qualifications in health economics, economics, public health, statistics or a related discipline, or bring equivalent professional experience.

Capabilities and Experience

- High level experience in health economics, economic analysis, health services research, data analytics or a related field.
- Demonstrated ability to analyse and interpret complex healthcare, workforce, funding or utilisation data.
- Extensive experience developing economic evaluations, cost-benefit analyses, business cases, funding analyses or economic models.
- Highly developed quantitative, analytical and research skills, including the ability to synthesise information from multiple sources and translate complex findings into practical insights.
- Understanding of the Australian healthcare system and experience using economic evidence and data analytics to inform policy development, advocacy or reform initiatives.
- Experience developing evidence that demonstrates the value, impact or return on investment of healthcare interventions, programs or services.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex economic concepts to technical and non-technical audiences.
- Ability to work independently while contributing effectively within a collaborative and matrix operating model.

Desirable

- Experience analysing Medicare, workforce, private health insurance or other health funding datasets.
- Experience working in healthcare, government, consulting, research or a member-based organisation.
- Postgraduate qualifications in health economics, economics, public health, statistics or a related discipline.