

Platform Statement for Dr Benjamin Joseph (Western Sydney University)
Nominee for the ASWIS Executive Board

My name is **Dr Benjamin (Ben) Joseph**, and I am honoured to be nominated for the ASWIS Executive Board. I am a Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Academic Program Advisor for the Bachelor of Social Work at **Western Sydney University (WSU)**, where my teaching, research, and partnerships focus on athlete wellbeing, violence prevention, youth development, and social justice in sport. It is a privilege to introduce myself to ASWIS members and share the vision I hope to advance within our international community.

My professional background spans both frontline practice and academic leadership. Prior to academia, I worked as a social work practitioner with young people, families, and community organisations—primarily in mental health, violence prevention, and program design—with Australia’s longest-running non-government organisation, *The Benevolent Society*. This practice foundation continues to shape my approach to sport social work, wherein I position research and support as practical, inclusive, and developed with—not merely for—athletes and practitioners.

Throughout my research career, I have developed and evaluated programs at the intersection of sport, wellbeing, and education, including ethical leadership and violence-prevention workshops for youth athletes, wellbeing and identity-development programs for rugby league pathways players, and trauma-informed training for coaches and facilitators. I have published in youth development, sport-based social work, and critical social theory, with a consistent aim of strengthening the environments that support athletes and communities.

I have been actively involved in advancing sport social work in Australia, collaborating with national and state sporting bodies, designing professional development for athletes and athlete-facing staff, and contributing to the growing knowledge base and training opportunities across the country. ASWIS has been instrumental in shaping the global direction of this field, and I am eager to contribute to its leadership.

If elected, I would prioritise **international growth, cross-border collaboration, and inclusive professional development of social workers involving athletes**. Sport operates globally, and sport social work must match this scale. I believe ASWIS can expand its international footprint through deeper partnerships with universities, sporting organisations, researchers, and practitioners—particularly across the Australia–Pacific region. I am committed to supporting the development of structured overseas collaborations, more international practitioner and student pathways, and continued

positioning of ASWIS as the world leader in sport social work practice, education, and research.

I would be honoured to bring an Australian perspective, a commitment to equity and innovation, and a passion for strengthening our field to the ASWIS Executive Board. Thank you for considering my nomination and for your contributions to this community. I hope to earn your support as we work together to shape the next chapter of ASWIS's growth and impact.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas via email or LinkedIn.

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Thank you,

Ben.

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