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AMA South Australia congratulates Liberals on victory

The AMA South Australia congratulates state Liberal leader Steven Marshall and the Liberal Party on their election victory. The Association looks forward to working with the newly-elected government.

AMA South Australia President Associate Professor William Tam said that the health portfolio will be an especially crucial one. "South Australia's health system is at a critical time of change. The city-based biomedical precinct offers great potential, and there have been significant investments in health infrastructure. But the health workforce has been buffeted by successive changes and challenges."

"The new Royal Adelaide Hospital offers exciting possibilities, but it is still getting up to speed; we don't yet have the plan for a new Women's and Children's Hospital; and we are grappling with the Transforming Health aftermath. There is also a lot more to do for rural and regional health."

"We are encouraged by undertakings that a Liberal Government will improve engagement with clinicians, recognizing that this is crucial to developing and maintaining high quality, safe and cost-effective services. We look forward to talking to the new Government about its proposed Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health Care, and the AMA(SA)'s own proposals for an independent Clinical Data Analytics Unit and new Clinical Senate. We also look forward to talking to Government about the Liberal plan to establish boards of management for each Local Health Network, including clinician membership and with formal clinical engagement strategies."

"We commend the Liberal Party on its commitment of many years' standing to a co-located Women's and Children's Hospital with the new RAH. We will hold the incoming government to the 100-day promise of a taskforce with clinicians to drive this project, with a view to achieving co-location by 2024. This undertaking provides important certainty to clinicians who have been extremely concerned about the future of the hospital, and for their patients. A unified Women's and Children's hospital next to the new RAH is an important vision, and an important promise to the women, babies and families of SA."

"We welcome the proposed independent review of EPAS, and stand ready to provide it with detailed feedback on what the issues are, and what is needed for a usable, fit-for-purpose electronic medical record system. We are here to be part of the solution. We also look forward to working with the new government on transparency on outpatient waiting times; children and young people's health; strengthening the rural health workforce; integrated care between hospitals and GPs; and mental health services, especially in rural and remote areas and for older people."

"The new government will have some big challenges in health, but the rewards of answering these challenges could not be higher. Health is fundamental."

"In South Australia, we have the capacity to show real leadership in health. In a range of areas, we already are. We are a good size for it – small enough to be connected-up and nimble, and big enough to have a critical mass of talent, resources and people. We have some work to do. But the AMA(SA)'s message to the new government is to *never* forget its promise to listen to the people who provide care to South Australians. The AMA is here to help. We want the best possible health system for our patients. And we will be working hard to get just that."

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