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A/Prof William Tam re-elected to head AMA in SA

The Australian Medical Association (South Australia) is glad to announce the re-election of Associate Professor William Tam to the role of AMA(SA) president.

A/Prof Tam was re-elected unopposed at the Association's Annual General Meeting at the Naval, Military and Airforce Club in Adelaide last night. This will be A/Prof Tam's second year in office. He is supported by Vice President Dr Chris Moy, who was also re-elected unopposed.

The re-election comes at a time of significant change in the South Australian health system, and on the first day of Parliament under the new state Liberal Government. A new chief executive is also set to take the reins at SA Health.

A/Prof Tam thanked AMA(SA) members and the AMA(SA) State Council for the trust placed in him to lead the Association and speak as an advocate for the profession and its patients.

"We are at a critical time, and I thank my colleagues for the faith placed in me," he stated.

"Following the major change projects of the new RAH, Transforming Health and EPAS, we now have a new Liberal government with new plans, including decentralizing governance of the public health system – and revisiting some of what Labor started."

"I think it is fair to say that doctors are very interested in the idea of increased local authority and decision-making, especially if this extends to doctors having more say on their local services, and less bureaucracy and red tape between them and decisions."

"We are also encouraged that the new government has pledged action on a number of areas highlighted by the AMA(SA), including a co-located Women's and Children's Hospital, and EPAS, and made a commitment to do better on listening to and consulting with clinicians on what is needed."

"I am glad to say that the AMA(SA) has had sound working relationships with both new Health Minister Stephen Wade, and new Health Shadow Chris Picton, and we look to continue that into the future."

"After 16 years, this is quite a change. The AMA(SA) has a very important message for the medical profession at this time, which is to consider what is needed from this new government, in Health. Consider what has been outlined so far. And consider what messages you would like us to take to the new Premier and Health Minister on behalf of the profession, and our patients. The new Government has said they will listen; we will be speaking up."

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