



**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC**

**Dr John Emery, AMA(SA) President 1994 –1996  
(Adapted from annual reports)**

Over the years, the AMA had been active in securing suitable superannuation arrangements for fee-for-service doctors in country hospitals. These doctors have been adversely affected by the superannuation guarantee tax implementation.

Federally, the Health Insurance Amendment Bill, covering contracts between hospitals, health funds and doctors, threatened to make doctors responsible to third parties rather than their patients.

We lobbied against a new WorkCover Bill which was to restrict medical fees for WorkCover patients and impose protocols for treatment for those patients.

Casemix funding for public hospitals was introduced and the management of Modbury Hospital was “privatised” with a number of services being contracting out.

We maintained contact with the Minister for Health, Dr Michael Armitage through regular meetings and also maintained good relationships with the Medical Board and the media.

Brian Whitford was appointed as our Executive Officer in February 1995 and we welcomed his energy and fresh perspective. Cathy Drummond’s sterling job as both Acting Executive Officer and Secretary over the preceding years was appreciated.

Although under control, our financial position remained a concern. BankSA and members who supported the AMA House Appeal contributed to the continuing financial stability of the Branch. We continued negotiating preferred suppliers arrangements to provide financial advantage for members, the Branch, and the suppliers.

Thanks to the excellent work of Editor, Phil Harding and Publisher, Trevor Gill, *The South Australian Medical Review* received the Federal AMA award for the Best State Publication.

My term was certainly no exception in terms of confronting issues, and it shows the need for the profession’s medicopolitical body to maintain its vigilance and level of activity to protect the interests of its members and their patients.

Our involvement in the euthanasia debate and the introduction of the Palliative Care Act protected the profession from a potentially disastrous situation.

The Branch took part in a firearms debate. We reviewed our policies so that the Association was in a good position to respond quickly to the disastrous event at Port Arthur. Also, our involvement in the poker machine debate ensured at least some revenue was diverted back into charitable organisations.



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AMADA Quality Management was set up as a joint venture between the AMA and the Australian Dental Association last year to facilitate quality control to avoid the spread of infectious diseases in doctors' and dentists rooms'.

The continuing debate on healthcare funding at all levels was also of vital importance to the Association. The considerable waste of time, effort, and money in "cost shifting" in the health industry was frustrating.

The outcome of the Relative Value Study for both the AMA and MBS fee lists was of major interest to members and I urged the profession to look impartially at the relative value of their services, and the inequities which have developed over the years.

A critical task is to have an informed profession and public. Only a strong professional organisation can achieve this objective.

I express my thanks to the members of the Executive and Council who supported me with untold hours of voluntary work.