



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

Dr Jeanette Linn, AMA(SA) President 1980 – 1981

My involvement with AMA(SA) Council started in March 1979 when Dr Bill Lawson invited me to join the Council as Vice President, and I followed Dr Max Moore as President, and was the first woman to hold the office in 100 years.

Delivering my policy speech to my first Council Meeting as AMA(SA) President on 3 July 1980 I indicated how deeply aware I was of the responsibility entrusted in me and thanked the members of Council sincerely for their expression of confidence, good wishes and encouragement. I referred to several matters that would need special consideration including: the training and deployment of medical graduates; the replacement and maintenance of doctors in rural practice; the definition of roles of allied health professionals, in particularly nurses; and, the responsibility of the medical profession in the assessment and continuing care of the aged and chronically sick.

I expressed my intention to call together representatives from local associations, universities and the medical colleges to provide a climate conducive to improving communication and understanding between groups who had common ideals and goals—this action proved to be worthwhile.

Early in my presidential term I introduced “Happy Hours”, which were informal gatherings for communication purposes between Council members and members of allied health organisations and local associations.

Smoking and health was discussed at length during August with the Council believing that a more effective anti-smoking program could be developed through the Anti-Cancer and National Heart Foundations.

The sudden death of Sir Leonard Mallen was a great loss to the AMA. Sir Leonard served for a number of years on both state and federal councils and was the AMA(SA) President during 1946 - 1947, Chair of Federal Assembly in 1966 -1967 and the World Medical Association's President in 1968.

The November Council considered a proposal for the establishment of Departments of General Practice in major teaching hospitals. Opposition was received from the General Practitioner Committee based on its belief that training for general practice should be further increased through the Family Medicine Program. The Council passed a resolution supporting the present concept of this Program as well as for its expansion for training for general practice.

Drs Bob Cooter, Bill Fuller and I visited medical practitioners in Eyre Peninsula in December and during this visit many issues were raised including the retrieval of the critically ill and injured, locum relief, accreditation of medical practitioners for rural hospitals and hospital contracts.

I attended the Inaugural Dinner of the Northern Territory Group of the AMA and presented a gift from the AMA(SA) to the President, Dr David Cox. I was also appointed as the South Australian Branch representative on the SA Council of Professions.

The February 1981 meeting recorded the congratulations of the Council to Dr Max Moore, who had been awarded the A.M. in the Australia Day Order of Australia Honours List.



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I attended my first meeting of the Federal Council of the AMA in April, as proxy for Dr Brian Cowling. This proved to be an unforgettable occasion as, being the first female representative at a Federal Council Meeting the AMA President, Dr Lionel Wilson gave me a kiss on the cheek and members of Federal Council stood whilst I took my seat. One member quietly (but not so quiet as to go unheard by me) passed the remark "next we'll be having flowers on the table". I found this very humorous and indeed "borrowed some flowers from the office" and had them placed on the table at a following meeting. I thoroughly enjoyed the Federal Council and was delighted to be elected, at the May meeting of the AMA(SA) Council, to be one of its two representatives on Federal Council for a two-year term. (I served as a Federal Council until 1988 with Dr's Trevor Pickering and Peter Joseph.)

During the last months of my presidential term the book *A Centenary History* was launched by Sir Walter Crocker. The AMA(SA) is indebted to Dr Bill Lawson in organising the publication of this book.

My last Council Meeting as President was held in June 1981, and at the Annual General Meeting I welcomed the newly elected President, Dr Brian Cornish.