



A New President, A New Approach

With the formal handover of the presidential chain at the AGM, **Dr Clover-Ann Lee** took on the role of SASA President for the next two years.

In accepting the position, Dr Lee acknowledged the strong leadership that preceded her – with a touch of humour.

“I’m very aware that I have some formidable shoes to fill,” she told members. “But to be honest, Sean, your shoes are too big for me.”

Her message was clear: she does not intend to try to fill someone else’s shoes.

“And so I need to wear my own shoes. I need to take ownership of my own leadership and not try to be something inauthentic and something that I’m not.”

Dr Lee committed to serving SASA in her own way and to the best of her ability.

She recognised the significant changes that have taken place within the Society in recent years, particularly around governance and financial sustainability. While change can sometimes feel unfamiliar or uncomfortable, she said these developments have created a strong foundation on which SASA can continue to build.

For the next phase, her focus will be on getting back to the fundamentals of what SASA represents and, importantly, understanding what members need from their Society.

“My first responsibility is to listen,” she said.

A membership survey will be distributed in the coming weeks to help SASA better understand what matters most to members and what they value about the Society. Dr Lee also committed to engaging with members and working towards constructive and collaborative solutions.

Another priority will be developing a deeper understanding of the national anaesthesia workforce across both the public and private sectors. This will help SASA use better data and insight to advocate effectively for the profession.



Looking To The Future

Dr Lee also emphasised that the next two years should not be about one person's priorities or goals.

“The future of our society is not about my priorities and my goals. This society needs to be fit for purpose for the people who are going to be leading it in 10 years' time.”

That message echoes Prof. Chetty's reflections on stewardship and the responsibility of each generation of SASA leaders to leave the Society stronger for those who follow.

For Dr Lee, that means teamwork – bringing together Council, business units, branches, SIGs, the academic sector, private sector and members around a common purpose.

Ultimately, she said, the work is not only about serving SASA's members, but about the patients they care for.

As the presidential chain changed hands at Congress 2026, SASA closed one chapter and opened another – building on the work of the past while looking ahead to what comes next.

A new President. A new chapter. And, as Dr Lee put it, a new pair of shoes for the journey ahead.

