



ROBYN FURNISS

South Australia

2006

Positions held with ADOHTA Branches

1980 - Present: General Member

1995 - 1997: General Committee
Member

1997- 2000/ 2002 - 2004:
ADOHTA SA Treasurer

2003-2005: ADOHTA SA Branch
President

2009 - 2011: Webmaster

Positions held with ADOHTA National Council

2002-2007: National Secretary



What was the most significant change within the profession during your involvement with ADOHTA?

Working towards the removal of the
restriction preventing dental therapists
working in private practice

Brief Outline of your career and achievements:

I studied dental therapy in South Australia in the late 70's loving the profession from the very beginning. On graduation I worked in clinics in the north eastern suburbs of Adelaide before becoming a District Dental Therapist in 1991. This brand new position gave me my first taste of middle management and the opportunity to work with other therapist's looking to enhance their oral health practice.

In March 2004 I took on another new role as a Local Operations Manager which focused more on the business aspects of managing an area including the first 9 chair "Polyclinic" built in SA. While thoroughly enjoying this new challenge I did miss the clinical component of my role and maintained one day in the clinic for as long as possible.



ROBYN FURNISS

South Australia

2006

Your most memorable
ADOHTA moment:

The achievement of the inaugural
International Conference in Darwin

Brief Outline of your career and achievements cont:

2006 saw me shift once again this time to the Regional Operations Manager role with responsibilities across the norther region in SA in both metro and country areas before taking up my final role with SA Dental Service as the Director of Service Planning where I could focus on projects for clients from vulnerable population groups including the Homeless and the aged care sector. This role had a second component in the planning and development of infrastructure projects which while challenging at first was highly rewarding.

My time in SA dental also saw me work with the IT and Evaluation departments helping with the development and testing of EXACT software and then rolling this software out to our field clinics training and assisting staff many of who had had very little to do with computer programs.

I moved away from working in oral health in 2019 when I became a full time carer for my parents and while enjoying this new role I still miss my previous life especially the friends I made who I don't get to see as often as I would like.

