

To,

The Committee Secretary

Standing Committee for Health and Aging

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Australia

Submission to improve registration processes and support for overseas doctors.....parliamentary inquiry

I worked for the after hours medical service in Brisbane called _____ from October 1998 to July 1998. I left because of the **poor ethical and medical standards engendered by the Medical Council of Queensland, and the Royal College of General Practitioners of Australia.**

I was subjected to extreme human rights abuse for practicing ethical medicine.

Overseas doctors were hired and put under pressure to go out in the middle of the night to give illicit drugs like morphine to drug addicts by the above company. The company made money thru these medical visits. Overseas doctors declining to indulge in illegal activity were persecuted by having their work visas and medical registration cancelled by the Medical Council of Queensland.

Overseas doctors are hired by this company and asked to persecute aboriginal people. I was called out at night by the Queensland police to see a child with asthma. But when I got there, the police wanted me to persecute an elderly aboriginal lady by declaring her mentally insane. The old lady who I declined to see appeared to be fine from her General Practitioner's notes and had mild depression. The police wanted to misuse me to declare her mentally insane and lock her in. I declined to do such an odious and inhuman task and left the scene.

I was persecuted by my employer and the Medical Council of Queensland for declining to indulge in human rights abuse and criminal activities, and my temporary registration and visa was cancelled.

The above matters were taken up by the aboriginal media, by the Indian news media, and the Indian parliament. I reported the matter to the then Health minister of Queensland

The Government of India's Australia desk Navrekha Sharma, wrote to the Australian High Commissioner in India _____ and failed to take this up. The above matters were brought to the attention of several Queensland parliamentarians, and thru personal letters to the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of Australia and nil action was taken.

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An Indian parliamentarian took of the case of illtreatment of Indian overseas doctors and their persecution by the Australian agencies, for failing to indulge in crime and unethical practices by their Australian counterparts. Mr KK Birla asked a question on this in the Indian parliament on 23rd November 2000.

The Indian Foreign Minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, took up the matter and Ms Navrekha Sharma was advised to write to [REDACTED] the Australian High Commissioner [REDACTED] took nil action.

The above matters have been posted to Amnesty International, and to the Common Wealth Human Rights Commission in India, and the Common Human Rights Commission in Tasmania. The National Commission for Women in India has registered a complaint against the
for misuse of Indian doctors by the Australian Government.

I took a personal interview with the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner, Mrs Mary Robinson, and advised her on the misuse of the Overseas Trained Doctors by Australian agencies.

My visa and registration were cancelled for declining to indulge in human rights abuse against the aboriginal people and for declining to indulge in illegal activities like giving morphine to addicts.

The Government of Australia needs to have Overseas Doctors like myself representing on the Australia Medical Council, and in the Australian Royal College of General Practice forums.

I am very keen to make an oral representation before your august committee.

I am keen to work with the august parliamentary committee to set up an ethical committee to guide the Australian Medical Council.

Indian doctor complains of racial bias Tribune News Service

New Delhi, February 25

Following complaints of racial discrimination by an Indian doctor who was serving in Australia, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Ms Sumitra Mahajan, has written to the Law Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry to apprise her on the action taken so far on the representations made by the doctor.

Ms Mahajan said Dr Vaishali Mona Verma, Convener, Australian Chapter of the Indian Medical Association, had complained about breach of legal and professional rights by the Australian Government and the Australian High Commissioner to India.

In her complaint, the doctor said that in May, 1998, the Queensland police, had asked her to certify an aboriginal woman as insane which she had declined. She reported the issue to the Medical Board of Queensland.

She took up another job with a medical locum service and returned to India after her father fell ill. Dr Verma said she had not been treated fairly when she approached the Australian

High Commission for going to Australia again.



Apartheid charges leave Aussie govt red-faced

SANCHITA SHARMA

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: A Brisbane-based Indian doctor accusing the Australian Government of apartheid and discrimination is turning out to be a deep embarrassment for them. Dr Mona Verma, the newly-appointed Convenor of the Australian Chapter of the Indian Medical Association, has accused Australian High Commissioner in India, _____ and the Australian Government, of human rights violation and apartheid, and has registered a case against them with the Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for Women (NCW).

Verma alleges that she is being victimised because she complained to the Medical Board of Queensland about the treatment meted out to temporary resident doctors in Australia. She alleges that while working for the _____ in Brisbane, she was asked to declare an old aboriginal woman mentally insane by policemen on one of her house visits.

"I was paged saying it was a case of bronchial asthma, but on arriving, found that the police wanted me to declare an aborigine insane so that they could lock her up under the Mental Health Act," alleges Verma. Since the woman only looked mildly depressed, Verma asked for her medical history, which was refused. Verma refused to certify and lodged a complaint with her service provider and the Medical Board of Queensland.

On getting no response, she complained to the Health Insurance Commission of Queensland, which did little else than promise -- in a letter dated October 25, 1999 -- to initiate an inquiry.

The Australian High Commission "chooses not to comment" on her allegations. Says _____, Australian High Commission: "Questions have been raised about Verma's ability to practise in Australia and her case is being considered by the Medical Board of Queensland."

Verma, meanwhile, came back to India and met Minister for External Affairs Jaswant Singh and the MEA followed up her complaint with Australia's High Commissioner in India. Says Navrekha Sharma, Joint Secretary (South), Ministry of External Affairs, "We were not completely satisfied with the answer we got from Australian High Commission and have referred the matter to the Indian High Commissioner in Australia."

Verma says she did not find _____ "forthcoming" and so lodged a complaint against him and his government with the NCW and the Human Rights Commission. NCW member Pornima Advani has written to _____ asking him to take action to ensure Verma's legal and professional rights. Based on his response, it would decide whether to invite _____ for a conciliatory meeting or summon him for an explanation before the Commission.

Verma further alleges that temporary resident doctors who are regularly employed to make after hour house calls are often assaulted and abused. "Under the _____ programme, we sit in a car with a navigator chaperone and visit everyone who pages us for help," she explains. "But since all doctors carry addictive drugs like Pethidine and Morphine, we are often paged by drug addicts who assault us for the

drugs." She says has been assaulted a couple of times, and has also been pressurised to prescribe addictive drugs to addicts.

The NCW will meet soon to decide its course of action, it is learnt.

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Above are the newspaper reports of the misuse and abuse of overseas trained doctors by Australian agencies. The chief of the WHO, and the UN Human Rights Commissioner and the Government of India are aware of the above.

Losses to the self:

The above treatment I was subjected to i.e. cancellation of visa and work permit for declining to indulge in human rights abuse of aboriginal people and for declining to give illegal drugs like morphine and pethidine to addicts, caused the following personal losses.

1. Career break.
2. Loss of earning of about 200, 000 Australian dollars.
3. I left Australia due to my father's terminal illness and could not return and this caused loss of my entire household effects valuing about 25000 Australina dollars.
4. Loss of personal time in taking up the above issues.
5. Total losses 1000,000 Australian dollars.

I will be grateful for adequate monetary compensation from the Australian Government.

I will be grateful for representation on the Australian Medical Council Committee for Australasian doctors from overseas. I will be grateful for representation on the ethical committee which I could set up for the Australina Medical Council and which is mandatory to advise the Australian Medical Council to keep from human rights abuse of doctors and the Australian people.

Kind regards,

Dr. Vaishali Mona Verma

Coordinator Overseas Doctors Forum.

Ex United Nations Health Advisor to the UN World Food Programme.