

**Submission No. 12**  
(Overseas Trained Doctors)  
Date: 21/01/2011

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From  
Dr. Sudheer Babu Duggirala

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STANDING COMMITTEE  
21 JAN 2011  
ON HEALTH AND AGEING

To  
Secretariat overseas trained doctors inquiry -  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing,  
PO Box 6021,  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600)

17/01/2011

Subject: Submission of information to the Parliamentary Inquiry committee, towards the registration of International Medical Graduates

I Dr. Sudheer Duggirala am an International Medical Graduate from India. I have been residing in Queensland since January 2005 till date. I am a qualified General Practitioner and completed my M.B.B.S degree in the year 1982. Since then I was practicing as a full time General Practitioner in India till January 2005.

In January 2005, we had arrived to Australia on a Visa subclass 457. In April 2005, I was registered with the Medical Board of Queensland to work as a General Practitioner under supervision, at the [REDACTED] billing surgery at Nambour, QLD. I was unable to work at that practice due to the unavailability of supervision.

Later I had an offer to work in a group practice at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Morayfield QLD. I was then registered with the Medical Board of Queensland in March 2006 to work as a General Practitioner at the same Medical centre under the supervision of [REDACTED]. I had worked at the same practice till May 2008. During that period there was a change of supervisors twice as the supervisors themselves had some conditions imposed by the Medical Board.

Initially I started working as a General Practitioner in Australia in 2006. I had difficulties in adapting to the Australian General Practice as that was my first experience to work as a GP in Australia. I was not provided with any orientation to the Australian General Practice. I had to face a few problems while working at the [REDACTED]. There was a complaint made against me by a female patient and the Medical Board of Queensland imposed conditions on my registration in Nov 2006. I had given undertakings to the MBQ that I would work as per the conditions imposed on my registration by the MBQ.

I was unable to continue to work at [REDACTED] as my supervisor at that time, [REDACTED] had moved to a different practice. Due to the unavailability of supervision, I had to change to another Medical centre.

In August 2008, I was registered by the MBQ to work as a General Practitioner under the supervision of Dr [REDACTED], at the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I started working there in September 2008. I had only worked there for 2 weeks. I was suddenly told by the Practice manager that [REDACTED] who had initially accepted to supervise me, could not continue to supervise me due to his personal health problems. Then I had requested the other doctors in the same practice to supervise me, but they denied. I was unable to continue to work in that practice due to the lack of supervision, being still registered with the MBQ.

I had contacted and informed the Medical board of Queensland regarding the same and they advised me to look for another job. I was offered [REDACTED] a position to work as a General practitioner at the [REDACTED] supervision of Dr [REDACTED]. The practice had then applied for an Area of Need with the Department of Health & Aging, Canberra. There was a delay of approximately 2 months in getting the Area of Need acceptance from the Department of Health and Aging. Meanwhile I had contacted and informed the Medical Board regarding the situation and requested them to consider my application for registration.

In March 2009, The Medical Board of QLD denied my application for the registration and advised me to pass either AMC part 1 or complete the FRACGP examination. I had enrolled for the FRACGP examination with the RACGP, Melbourne in March 2008 but was not successful. Later I had passed the KFP component of the FRACGP examination in June 2009 and the AKT examination in November 2009. I had appeared for OSCE in October 2009, May 2010 and recently in October 2010, but unfortunately I have not been successful in the completion of the clinical examination.

I had not been working since September 2008, but the Royal Australian college of General Practitioners has been very supportive and granted me with special permission to appear for the clinical examination.

I had contacted the Medical Board of Australia on several occasions by phone and also went personally to the Medical Board of Australia office in Brisbane in July 2010. I had requested them to consider me for re-registration, as I had already completed the AKT & KFP components of the FRACGP examination. As I had not been working since September 2008, it had been difficult for me to pass the Objective Structured Clinical examination, as I am not seeing any patients and not being in the system.

Since September 2008 till today, I had been through a lot of mental stress and financial problems. As I am a spouse dependant on my wife's visa subclass 457, I am able to stay in this country. But due to all these issues with my employment and registration, my family have been through a lot of mental agony. I have elderly parents living in India, who need my support due to their health reasons, but unfortunately I have not been able to support them. I myself have been facing a lot of problems with the bureaucracy here in Australia.

I have been paying for all the examination fees and doing my best to pass the clinical examination.

I request the ADTOA to help me with my re-registration process with the Medical Board of Australia to work as a General Practitioner, as I had passed the AKT & KFP components of the FRACGP examination. This would help me to be back in the system and practicing General Practice would be very useful to pass the OSCE and achieve the qualification of FRACGP and become a full fledged General Practitioner in Australia.

Thanking you,

Kind regards,



Dr. Sudheer Duggirala