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Sent: Thursday, 28 April 2011 5:41 PM
To: Committee, HAA (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into Registration Processes and Support for Overseas Trained Doctors

Mr Irons has asked me to forward you the following correspondence received in relation to the Inquiry into Registration Processes and Support for Overseas Trained Doctors.

[REDACTED]
Office of Steve Irons MP

-----Original Message-----

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<p><u>Submission No. 144</u> (Overseas Trained Doctors) Date: 11/05/2011</p>

Comments: To Steve Irons MP



Dear Mr Irons,

with great interest I am following the recent Inquiry into Registration Processes and Support for Overseas Trained Doctors.

I am myself an overseas trained specialist anaesthetist currently employed at the Royal Brisbane Hospital (RBH).

My family and I have made our way across from Germany in 2007 and ever since then I had the chance to work and serve the Australian community in the private as well as public sector first as a consultant and now as a resident medical officer. A privilege and a rewarding working experience.

Our four year long term business visa 457 is coming to an end and I am in the process of reapplying for an extension. Certainly we as a family would benefit from being granted a permanent residency with all its benefits like MediCare for my wife, children and myself or child care support.

Unfortunately this is currently not possible because the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) does not recognise my medical training and expertise(which I acquired in Germany) as equivalent to the local training. Over the last 2.5 years I have tried to pass the Australian fellowship exam set by the College of Anaesthetist. Unfortunately due to the difficulties one faces as a foreigner to this training system which you have heard of extensively through Prof Michael Steyn (our current Director at the RBH) and many others during the Brisbane hearing I have not been successful. This stands in contrast to my daily work in which I am a trusted member of the anaesthetic team working independently and actually teaching registrars in the operating theatre. Not to mention that in my after hours on call we as a team (myself as the anaesthetic team leader) frequently save lives of fellow Australians.

Presently my family and I are in a state of severely distressing fatigue due to the constant fear of our unknown future here in Australia. That is because AHPRA has announced that they are not willing to grant me another registration after January 2012.

I, as a fully trained medical specialist from Germany I am simply seeking to be accepted as a specialist and be rewarded the recognition by institutions such as AHPRA. This would allow me to work as such and apply for a permanent residency for my family and me.

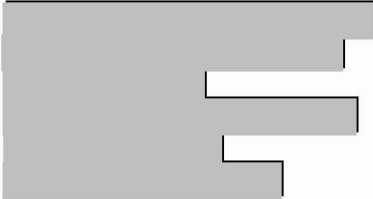
As a consequence becoming a member of the College of Anaesthetists is a goal I can pursue with much less stress knowing my family and I are safe to stay.

I am really looking forward to the outcome of the inquiry and hope at least this humiliating and degrading recognition process for specialists from countries like Germany will be upgraded so I can gain full recognition and apply for permanent residency. Becoming a member of the honourable College of Anaesthetists certainly is secondary goal I am more than willing to pursue once we are safe to stay.

Thank you very much for taking your time to read through this

Kind Regards

Dr Christoph Frahm

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