

Submission No. 30
(Overseas Trained Doctors)
Date: 03/02/2011

From ; Dr.Prashanta Kumar Mitra



STANDING COMMITTEE
31 JAN 2011
ON HEALTH AND AGEING

To

Honourable Parliamentarians

Parliament House

Canberra, ACT. 2600.

Date ; 12th January 2011

I DO NOT HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS
TO MAKING MY DETAILS PUBLIC.

Prashanta
22/01/11

SUBMISSION FOR IMG PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES

It is heartening and encouraging to know that at last somebody is hearing our woes.

I am a trained qualified general surgeon from India, worked in various parts of the world. Being resident of New Zealand I migrated to Australia in 2001 along with my wife. After obtaining the registration with Medical board of Queensland, I started working at first as locum-cum surgeon and then in a permanent staff specialist position in Mount Isa .

I started the outreach surgery from Mount Isa in September 2001. This job took me to thirteen places in west and north Queensland to do the surgical consultations and procedures. I often used to find myself alone , without any professional back up in very remote places. I was denied the further

training and up skilling by the local Queensland health authorities. After working for three years to add to my stress The Royal College of Surgeons who had agreed to award me the fellowship, asked me to do two more years in Mount Isa to be eligible for fellowship in Surgery.

Performing the operations like gall bladder, Hernias, varicose veins ,resection anastomosis , in the remote places like Longreach, Winton ,Blackall, Barcaldine , Hughenden, and Collinsville ,I always used to feel as if I have been left out there without any professional and administrative support.

Having enough of the problems I decided to switch over to General practice in 2004. As I did not have any G.P. experience for more than ten years prior to that, The RACGP College asked me to complete four years of work under supervision to qualify for the examination. Meanwhile I had already cleared the part one of the AMC examination and also the English test.

Since August 2004 I am working in GP practice and also in Defence medical centre under supervision. My colleagues, supervisors ,staff and most important my clients (patients) are happy with my work and I do have the testimonials from them .

This period of my work in rural Australia as G.P. has been very stressful. Medical Board was very unpredictable in implementing the rules and as result I was totally confused. I never had any support for advancing my medical knowledge, neither training .

I qualified to write the RACGP exam in March 2009. I wrote the examination in Nov 2009 but unfortunately was unsuccessful. I again enrolled for the examination in the second stream of 2010. Meanwhile the state medical boards were merged with the central Medical Board and all the rules changed.

There was delay in obtaining the registration .At last after a period of indecision on the part of the board and after making numerous telephone calls to medical board I was told that I have to do the SCI (Structural Clinical Interview)to enable me to get the registration. At the same time I was preparing for the examination.


I wrote my examination on 13th and 14th October 2010 and I had to travel to Brisbane on 15th Oct 2010 to appear in the SCI. I did qualify in the SCI but it can be very well imagined how much of stress, financial burden and loss of income I had to undergo.

I am a health professional of more than 35 years of experience after the graduation and fellowship in Surgery. My patients as well as the doctor colleagues they benefit from my surgical experience. I have been practising in Australia for last ten years without having any adverse remarks or complaints. I am fluent in English and very good in communication.

I am very frustrated with the bureaucratic, authoritarian, rude behaviour of the college and medical board. My experience and efforts to work in Australia sincerely and honestly should be acknowledged and appreciated.

I have attached the copy of the letter I had written to local M.P. and also the copy of my Career Summary for your consideration.

Thanks and kind regards


22/1/2011

Dr. Prashanta Kumar Mitra