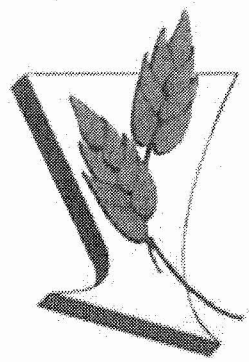


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**Submission No. 136**  
(Overseas Trained Doctors)  
Date: 12/04/2011



**Eyre Peninsula Division  
of General Practice**

**Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Registration  
Processes and Support for OTDs.**

**April 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**

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The Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice (EPDGP) welcomes the Parliamentary Inquiry into registration processes and support for Overseas Trained Doctors (OTDs).

The EPDGP submission is based on the experience of supporting a GP Workforce (currently 56 GPs) comprised of around 68% of OTDs, often working in remote and isolated communities. The Division works in collaboration with the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency in the recruitment, orientation and support of the OTDs and their families.

The submission from this organisation is in relation to the **Terms of Reference 2. Report on the support programs available through the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments, professional organisation and colleges to assist OTDs to meet registration requirements, and b) provide suggestions for the enhancement and integration of these programs:**

The Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice provides orientation and support programs for OTDs and their families who on arrival to Australia are placed in remote and isolated communities.

Adequate orientation to the Australian health care system and community is vital in maintaining high standards of medical care in rural communities. Support for OTDs in their recruitment, orientation and subsequent preparation for the RACGP or ACRRM Fellowship is important in retaining a rural medical workforce. Allocated Supervisors for the OTDs are volunteer GPs often residing hundreds of kilometres away in another community.

**The Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice recommends:**

- Continued funding for orientation for OTDs prior to commencing practice and satisfying the community that it is a comprehensive process.
- Increased support for supervisors of OTDs and clarification of their roles.

**Recently arrived OTDs on Eyre Peninsula related the following experiences and suggestions.**

*Registration process very complicated and no clear information provided by AMC– also changing frequently. This is one big reason why it is difficult to attract doctors from non-third world countries*

*Moratorium meaning IMGs are treated as second class doctors compared to Australian doctors*

*GP qualification from other countries of equal standard (e.g. Germany) not accredited, resulting in huge costs and effort for the RACGP exam that is required to work here*

*Generally large costs involved to be allowed to gain registration here (AMC exam, Visa, PESCI etc., RACGP exam)*

*The time delay between expressing interest and getting through all the red tape is a problem*

*There is a considerable financial cost in travelling to pass exams and all the forms as well .*

*IMG often not eligible for Medicare*

*The non availability of medicare cover for the doctor and their family would be an issue.*

*It is considerably easier to go to Canada and medical cover is immediate there i understand*

*The process took us 9 months. The RACGP PESCI interview was successful however missed the small print as the US licensing exam occurred before 1992 it was invalid and ACRRM was approached to provide the vital PESCI 'tick of approval via VC. This interview was delayed as the ACRRM official spent 5 weeks on a camel safari and was not contactable. After the interview the applicant had to provide his high school certificate as evidence of his proficiency in English. Duplication of documents to the AMC, ACRRM & AHPRA was time consuming and expensive. The unknown time factor in completing the paperwork created difficulties in arranging schools, housing and work commitments. (Experienced US family Physician)*