



Dear Honorable Members of the Committee

First of all I want to congratulate you on and thank you for your Inquiry into Registration and Support Processes for Overseas Trained Doctors.

Before I came to Australia in 2001 I was a consultant specialist anaesthetist in a tertiary university hospital in Germany.

Since then I have experienced firsthand the at times humiliating and depressing process to get my professional qualification recognized in Australia and I am witnessing a lot of similar desperation in overseas colleagues and their families who are in the process of trying to get their qualifications recognized in Australia. (That is why I have stopped recommending Australia as a professional destination)

I wanted to gain unconditional registration with a medical board to be eligible for permanent residency, so I could choose myself when to leave the country and not be told by an employer that my work contract depended on which my temporary visa depended on. (I am an Australian Citizen now)

I worked in rural hospitals that locally trained anaesthetists were not willing to provide anaesthetic services for (Area of Need). I very much enjoyed the settings, because I was able to make a difference. But despite my German and European Specialist Qualification and unconditional General and Specialist Registration with the UK General Medical Council (UK Equivalent to AHPRA) I was required to sit the Australian anaesthetic registrar exit exam which effectively chased me away from these remote locations, where I felt needed the most.

After attending the Brisbane hearing and reading the submissions and the transcripts I am impressed by your dedication.

From my perspective the most urgent issues for Overseas Trained Specialists appear to be:

1. Stop the AHPRA now from restricting the time frame to an arbitrary 4 years for overseas specialists to fulfil all the various and changing requirements for unconditional registration. (Which eligibility for permanent residency depends on)
2. For a professional at an advanced stage in their career (and their life) it is insulting and inappropriate to have to sit exams that are designed for medical students or medical trainees (let alone having to work as a junior doctor again) It is a well known fact that there is unfortunately limited

correlation between a successful exam candidate and a competent clinician (and that applies to Australia-only and internationally trained doctors)

Because the assessment of an individual's professional standard is necessary, a Workplace Based Assessment (WBA) can tell you whether someone has the appropriate skills, knowledge and attitude to perform safely in the workplace.

I have performed Workplace Based Assessments (WBA) on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) for Area of Need (AoN) positions and for the Assessments of Specialist Qualifications and perceived this as a fair and constructive way to find out about someone's professionalism.

3. Once you have worked as a doctor for some years in an area of workforce shortage, don't you then deserve permanent residency and access to Medicare for you and your family?

Thank you again for trying to improve the quality of the healthcare delivered to Australia's population by trying to introduce more fairness into the registration processes of Overseas Trained Doctors.

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