

24 August 2011



To: The House Standing Committee on Health & Ageing  
Australian Government  
[Haa.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Haa.reps@aph.gov.au)

<p><b><u>Submission No. 163</u></b> (Overseas Trained Doctors) Date: 25/08/2011</p>
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**SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO REGISTRATION PROCESSES AND  
SUPPORT FOR OVERSEAS TRAINED DOCTORS**

My name is Julie Wein and my position is Project Officer for the AMC Workplace Based Assessment (WBA) Program at Hunter New England Health (HNEH). I commenced employment at HNEH in December 2006. Prior to that I worked at the University of Newcastle for 17yrs in administrative areas supporting undergraduate and postgraduate International students and their families. In March 2010 I was invited to join the team in the Centre for Professional Medical Development specifically to work on the implementation of the WBA Program.

In association with the University of Newcastle's School of Medicine and Public Health, HNE Health last year became the first organisation in Australia to be accredited by the Australian Medical Council to offer such a program.

Using an Australian and possible world-first approach to evaluating the skills of new doctors, HNE Health's WBA Program has already enabled 49 IMGs to fast track their entry into the workforce.

The accreditation means that HNE Health can offer eligible IMGs the option of completing their clinical assessments in the workplace within six months; a much quicker alternative to the Standard Pathway (AMC Clinical Examination) that often means a wait of two or more years!

Most importantly candidates participating in the WBA Program receive immediate constructive feedback which often isn't provided to new doctors. This in turn empowers the IMGs to greater learning opportunities and potential for self improvement.

A third cohort of 19 IMGs commenced the WBA Program on 7 June. At the end of 2011 a total of 68 IMGs will have completed the program.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Julie Wein  
Project Officer  
AMC Workplace Based Assessment Program  
Byrne House, HNELHD  
Locked Bag 1  
Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310