

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing as an Australian citizen who has been over 20 years residing here and who has a wife who is a doctor on a 457 visa who has over 20 years experience who has worked in few countries other than Australia.

She has been working in outback Queensland over quite a number of years and contributing to the well being of Australians..

I would like to make the following points

-why is there discrimination in the way foreign doctors are treated example their registration is not yearly but in my wife case it nearly sometimes every two month. She has to fill forms etc every time to renew.

The engineers ,accountants etc are not treated like this.When the Immigration department gave her a 457 visa for 4 years anybody sensible would have thought renewal of registration is every year .

-she has to have a supervisor which I think it is a joke considering in Babinda hospital the supervisor is in Tablelands which is over 100 km away. Is the supervisor in Table lands going to check each and every patient the doctor has treated? I am sure there are many other cases all over Australia

-I cant get my wife and come and stay with me as we are separated by over 1200 km.

I can understand that Australia needs doctors especially for rural / outback areas surely after serving say a few years she should be able to practice in cities.without restrictions on her movement. To put it bluntly I call it DOCTORS WITH BORDERS or BEING A OPEN DOCTORS PRISON IN OUTBACK AUSTRALIA. It is very discriminating when other professions like engineers, accountants do not have these type of restrictions.

I consider the AMA be a closed union/body which operates without any scrutiny from the Federal Parliament.

It is about time AMA is held accountable and this inquiry makes some serious recommendations for foreign trained Doctors example

-registration is yearly renewed

-after 3 years the foreign doctors serving in outback can come to cities to work.

The Federal Health Minister Miss Nicola Roxon hope she reads this submission also.

I am willing to make time and my cost to fly to Canberra to talk to the committee.

This a reason Cairns lost a good heart surgeon recently

.The Health of Australians is being comprimised by these obsolete regulations.

P/S I have lived over 10 years in Outback Australia and seen health being taken for granted by politicians as they look at the time to next election.

I have one last question for the panel -how is going Australia to overcome Doctor shortages when the rules are way backward compared to other developd countries ?

I can understand after Dr Patel(QLD) incident which was mainly caused by QLD recruitment process failing.Please do not treat all Overseas Trained Doctors in Australia the same basket.

Hope you make good recommendations so this inquiry is seen not as a lame duck!!!! by the Australian public

V. Kandiah

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