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To: Committee, HAA (REPS)

Subject: FW: Inquiry into overseas trained doctors-the tall tales and the truth

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The honourable Steve Georganas MP,  
Chair of Committee,  
Inquiry into overseas trained doctors,

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**Submission No. 142**  
(Overseas Trained Doctors)  
Date: 20/04/2011

Dear Sir,

I was listening to comments on the ABC when I was driving work this morning and as request feel compelled to write to you. I know it is well past the closing date for submissions but I thought you may be interested in my thoughts anyway. I would assume that most of the submissions that you have received to date are from parties with significant vested interests in the employment of overseas trained doctors. This is fair enough but perhaps the rest of the community should say something! I am an Australian trained doctor with specialist registration in general practice and medical administration. I gained entry into the medical education program by the acquiring a succession of scholarships and working part-time. Through dysfunctional family circumstances I have had to be financially self sufficient since I as14-15.

Anyway because of the nature of my practice my general practice is entirely confined to after hours-specifically Thursday evenings and weekends. My practice is on the south side of Brisbane where I am extremely popular and always double booked.

So what are my points?

1. Why do we need overseas trained doctors –the answer-because successive governments have denied a large proportion of the best and brightest the opportunity to train in medicine in Australia? Discrimination against Australian citizens has been rampant and strongly encouraged by governments with AMA support
2. Why do we need overseas trained doctors-because of their cultural and economic background they are 'more complaint' to employer demands –accepting reduction conditions of service –this is a whole story in itself-but I suggest you check out the recent demise of the 'the doctors company' which was a major employer of overseas trained doctors
3. Te Australia government by employing overseas trained doctors is taking doctors from the poorest countries in the world and thereby significantly reducing the quality of care provided in those countries –rather than the Australian government actually training enough of it's own
4. I challenge you to check out the usual sites where medical practices might recruit Australian trained doctors rather than seeking the easy and cheap route described above. I think you would be lucky to find one for example in the weekend Australian.

Anyway like you I have a busy day and I have said my piece!

Best of luck!

Geoff Copland

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