

To
The Chairman
Standing Committee on Health and Ageing
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Sir/Madam,

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency – NT (AHPRA)

I would like to draw your attention to a number of examples where AHPRA has continued the registration of General Practitioners (GP) without meeting the relevant criteria of gaining an Australian Medical Certificate (AMC) or Specialist qualification within 5 years of initial registration as a GP. The examples are in the public domain and can be viewed on the publicly available AHPRA website and are attached to this letter.

As far as I am aware and according to the AHPRA National Medical Board any overseas trained doctors, either in general practice or hospital setting, must complete either an AMC or Specialist qualification within 5 years of initial registration as a GP. Should these requirements not be attained, the GP or Hospital based doctor is required to complete PESCI as well as an English test.

I hold an AMC certificate and I have been denied continuing registration as a GP after working as GP in Australia for over 3 years, due to an English test requirement. I believe that the AHPRA Board denial to allow my continuing registration as a GP is discriminatory (and possibly a breach of the Racial Discrimination Act) and a clear case of double standards at play.

I consider that I should be permitted to be granted continuing registration as a GP given that I am a holder of an AMC certificate and have over 25 years experience as GP. This has also been attested by the General Practice Network of NT (GPNNT) when I was issued with a certificate in November 2011 and medal for 25 years' service as GP.

Furthermore, I would like to point out that the AMC booklet describing the AMC Clinical examination clearly states that the exam is designed to not only test the medical knowledge of candidates but also focuses on language and communication skills and the ability to counsel and interact effectively with patients. These exams are conducted by senior Australian doctors and professors who judge the candidates on all aspects including their communication skills. Surely if my language skills were inadequate and unacceptable to these examiners I would not have been able to pass this exam.

Your response in due course would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Dr Chowdhury