



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health  
South Metropolitan Area Health Service

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL



**CLINICAL SERVICES EXECUTIVE**

Telephone: (08) 9224 2283 Facsimile: (08) 9224 3625

**Submission to the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into  
Registration Processes and Support for Overseas Trained Doctors**

**Specialists:**

The current process of registration of overseas trained doctors (OTDS) [or as currently referred to as International Medical Graduates, IMGs] is such that it is extremely difficult for these doctors to work in Australia, particularly as a specialist.

The process of registration as a specialist requires that the doctor:

- Has commenced the recognition process by the relevant Specialist College (cost varies but may be as high as \$10,000) and over, depending on the college, College of Surgeons being the most expensive. There are flights and accommodation costs involved if the specialist needs to fly over to the Eastern States for College interviews.
- Has commenced the Australian Medical Council recognition process (cost \$4,000), plus the IEC costs for verification of qualifications. Specialists have had problems with the AMC losing documentation, holding up process, and incurring the cost of another good standing certificate which only lasts for three months.
- Applies for a visa from the Department of Immigration, a cost of \$600 has to be paid to the Medical Board for processing of medical registration. Health Insurance costs and site insurance is now required to be provided to Immigration as part of their visa conditions. Medical costs up to \$500. Visa application, \$500 for the initial visa from the specialist and \$500 for nomination application of visa.

In the event of such a specialist wishing to work in Australia for a short period of time, such as 6–12 months, it is impractical and grossly time-consuming to undergo this process. High-quality doctors are discouraged from doing so, as well as being disillusioned by the costs and time involved. This is to the detriment of service provision for Australian citizens.

The new Board registers doctors for 12 months from the date of approval, not for the 12 months stated in Form S of the Sponsoring Hospital's initial application; this means that a further registration application has to be made – time-consuming, costly and unnecessary.

The new Board now requires completion of Criminal Record Screening – a further delay. This has traditionally been undertaken by the employing agency – much more flexible.


**Recommendations:**

- State/Territory Boards *maintain* control of registration and notifications.
- State/Territory Boards are granted greater autonomy to make decisions in the national and local interest, providing that public safety and professional standards are considered to be maintained.

- State/Territory Boards are able to approve registration *prior to* AMC/Specialist College recognition processes and *prior to* visa applications.
- State/Territory Boards are able to approve registration without Criminal Record Screening.

**Junior Medical Practitioners**

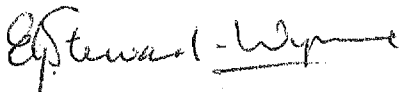
Most of the above applies to junior medical practitioners with the exception of the Specialist College recognition processes.



**DR M PLATELL**  
**DIRECTOR CLINICAL SERVICES, RPH**



**DR J TROTTER**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR CLINICAL SERVICES, RPH**



**DR EG STEWART-WYNNE**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CLINICAL SERVICES, RPH**

---

This submission has the approval of the A/Executive Director, RPH.

