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**Submission No. 70**  
(Overseas Trained Doctors)  
Date: 15/02/2011

4<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Committee Secretariat

House Standing Committee on Health and Ageing

Australian Parliament

E-mail: [haa.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:haa.reps@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary,

Re: Submission on the Registration Process and Support for OTD

Mission Statement: "Unemployed but not unemployable"

I am very concerned that I might be unable to use my skills again; I had successfully completed the AMC MCQ in 2007 and the OET in 2008 but failed to secure a job in a health workforce even though I have fulfilled all the criteria needed to start a junior position in hospitals and despite my extensive experience in medicine, I refer that to two factors: the gaps in my practice and my age group. Even though I can't provide an evident, the influx of young migrant doctors / recent graduates who arrived in Australia on a visit visa, student visa between 2007-2010 have been successful in taking the jobs while we, who are Australian citizens, were held back.

I had been granted a governmental scholarship in 2005 to the value of \$10,000 as a joint program between the Department of Health and Ageing and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners; it was very helpful but unfortunately there was no follow-up of the progress of the candidates or any further help to find a job even as an observer, which I think is a priority.

I had offered a place to sit the AMC clinical during November 2010 but I was sick, I am intending to sit May/August 2011.

I am among doctors trapped on welfare leading to ill health and despair in addition to the tragic loss of my teenage son who was murdered in Melbourne in 2003.

I understand that the issue of the Overseas Trained Doctors (OTD) or the International Medical Graduates (IMG) is complex and difficult to resolve, but if there is the will there is the way.

To maintain the competency and the safety of the public, we don't want anyone practicing as a doctor in Australia who doesn't have the knowledge and competence to do the job. But equally we don't want anyone held back, who with some additional training, could practice medicine.

The waste of talents that Australia need has been appalling and the mess is also expensive.

The government needs to tackle this restrictive procedure by:

- Encouraging the employers in health sector to accommodate more junior HMO and Observer jobs and to remove the barriers on the gaps in their experience, remove the age discrimination of candidates especially after completing the required bridging, orientation and continuing education programs.
- To encourage Australian Doctors to take part as a volunteer to provide OTD/IMG with free tutorials like Dr. Wezel's Thursday Tutorial at Monash Medical Centre and Dr. Shone and Julian's Tutorial at Western hospital.
- To encourage health providers to offer Observer jobs at Metropolitan and Rural Hospitals for candidates who passed the AMC MCQ, Occupational English Test (OET) and who completed one of the clinical bridging programs.
- To give some attention to the overseas trained doctors (OTD) who are Australian citizens.

Thank you for your cooperation

Regards

Yours faithfully

Dr. Ghaleb Jaber