

Supp. Submission No. 74.1

(Overseas Trained Doctors)

Date: 04/04/2011



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Mr Ian Civil

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

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01 April 2011

Mr Steve Georganas MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Health and Ageing
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: haa.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr. Georganas

Inquiry into Registration Processes and Support for Overseas Trained Doctors

Thank you for allowing the College's representative Mr. Ivan Thompson FRACS to appear before the committee at its public hearing in Melbourne on Friday 18 March. During that hearing you requested that further information be provided regarding the appeals process available to International Medical Graduates.

The attached Appeals Mechanism Policy applies to trainees, Fellows and IMGs and is published on the College website as a public document. The policy incorporates an initial review process via the original decision maker and other internal College committees. An Appeals Committee is only convened if the complaint cannot be resolved by review.

A feature of the College Appeals Committee is that it is a majority independent committee. The current chair of the Committee is Ms. Fiona McLeod SC, and past chairs have included Prof. Louis Waller AO. Fellows of the College cannot chair the committee and are restricted to a maximum of two members. Non-College members include Mr. David Kerslake, Queensland Electoral Commissioner, Dr. Liz Mullins, National Manager, Risk Consulting, Avant and Mr. Tim Bugg, former President of the Law Council of Australia.

In the last five years the College has undertaken 515 IMG assessments. Of these, 6 IMGs have lodged complaints that have resulted in Appeals Committee hearings (including 2 scheduled). The Appeals Committee has on one occasion substituted its own decision in preference to that of the College, and on another upheld the College's decision but recommended a second assessment due to procedural errors.

I would also like to take the opportunity to clarify the role of jurisdictional representation at the College. The College has always welcomed the participation of jurisdictional representatives in College committees, training post accreditation and IMG assessment.

In 2009 the Health Workforce Principal Committee (HWPC) advised the College that jurisdictional representatives would no longer participate in College committees but would continue to be available for post accreditation and IMG assessment. While continued participation is greatly valued in those activities, withdrawal from committees means that jurisdictions do not participate in debate and discussion that informs the policy making activities of the College.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ian Civil
President

CC: Mr. Keith Mutimer FRACS, Vice President
Prof. Mark Edwards FRACS, Censor in Chief
Mr. Simon Williams FRACS, Chair, Board of Surgical Education and Training
Mr. Ivan Thompson FRACS, Deputy Chair, Board of Surgical Education and Training