



Submission No. 90
(Overseas Trained Doctors)
Date: 18/02/2011

4 February 2011

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Secretary
Inquiry into Registration Processes and
Support for Overseas Trained Doctors
House of Representatives
P O Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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The Private Hospitals Association of Queensland (PHAQ) is the peak body representing the interests of private hospitals operating in the State of Queensland. Our membership base is diverse and includes large groups – both for profit and not for profit, independent hospitals, day surgeries and several small, community-owned, regional not for profit hospitals.

Queensland is unique in that it is the only State where there are more private hospitals outside the capital city catchment area than within it and as such many of our regional members need to recruit Overseas Trained Doctors to meet service needs.

On behalf of the Private Hospitals Association Queensland (PHAQ), I make the following submissions relating to the Enquiry into Registration Processes and Support for Overseas Trained Doctors.

1. Currently most overseas trained doctors working as deemed specialists work under supervision of specialists approved by the relevant specialty college. These supervisors are usually required to submit reports to the relevant college every 3, 6 and 12 months. (*Refer Appendix "A" for sample college report*). Additionally, APHRA also require separate reports from those supervisors for similar periods of time (*Refer Appendix "B: for sample Medical Board of Australia report*).

Recommendation 1

To reduce the administrative burden on supervisors, it is recommended that consideration be given to combining these two separate reports into one document that will meet the needs of both the APHRA and the Colleges.

2. The registration processes are extremely inefficient in terms of the different government entities involved. These include:
 1. Medicare - Provider Nos
Provider Registration
 2. Department of Health - 19AB Exemption
And Ageing (Primary
Ambulatory Care Division)

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| 3. Department of Health
And Ageing Workforce
Regulation Section | - | District of Workforce Shortage |
| 4. Medicare
Provider Eligibility and
Accreditation Section | - | Recognition as a Specialist or
Consultant Physician |
| 5. APHRA | - | Registration |

The above require different application forms and supporting documentation. Additionally, varying approval periods are granted eg: 1 year, 2 years.

The current system is flawed in that the approvals by one of the above entities can be delayed whilst awaiting approval from another of the entities.

Recommendation 2

To overcome those delays the Committee might wish to consider the feasibility of combining the tasks performed into a "One Stop" application process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarification on the above issues.

Yours sincerely,

**LUCY FISHER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Attachments:

- "A" – RACP Peer Review Report on an Overseas Trained Physician/Paediatrician
"B" – Medical Board of Australia – Work Performance Report for Limited Registration

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