



Australian Medical Council attends overseas skills inquiry

The Australian Medical Council will appear before the Federal parliament's Migration Committee at a public hearing in Canberra on 24 May as part of its inquiry into skills recognition, upgrading and licensing.

"There has been considerable concern about ongoing shortages of health professionals and the assessment of overseas trained medical personnel," Committee Chairman Don Randall said.

The Committee will discuss how the system of recognising overseas medical qualifications might be improved to address these concerns. COAG has indicated a number of areas where changes will be made, including a national assessment process for overseas trained doctors. We are interested in examining what this might involve."

The Committee is looking at skills recognition not only for migrants but also for those who come to Australia outside the skilled migration system, such as temporary residents needing skills assessment and Australian citizens returning to Australia with overseas qualifications.

In addition, the Committee is comparing Australia's overseas skills recognition arrangements with those of other major immigration countries and looking at whether greater consistency in the recognition of qualifications might be achieved among Australian states and territories.

Public hearing schedule on 24 May 2006

VENUE: Committee room 1R6, Parliament House, Canberra

12.10 pm Australian Medical Council

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/index.htm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or emailing jscm@aph.gov.au.

For media comment, Please contact the Committee Chairman, Don Randall MP on (02) 6277 2090 (Canberra) or in his electorate on (08) 9390 1211.

For background information, contact the Inquiry Secretary on (02) 6277 4561.