

From: Kristine Riedel-Fiddick [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2013 1:53 PM
To: Standard Consultation
Subject: Public consultation on a review of the English language skills and Criminal history registration standards

Dear AHPRA

English is not my mother tongue. However, I have gained registration in 4 English speaking countries on 3 continents and also have worked successfully as and Occupational Therapist in these countries.

I would like to see that having successfully (what that means might need to be further defined) worked in the relevant profession in an English speaking environment will be taking into account at least as much as passing the relevant language requirements = test.

I believe that providing or even demanding some cultural than rather language prerequisites to understand and settle in to the Australian health system would be a good addition to the registration and integration for internationally educated health professions. For my transition into Canadian practice I participated in a bridging program called OTepp (Occupational Therapy exam and practice preparation) from Mac Master University that addressed that very well.

To be a good health practitioner in a foreign country needs so much more than text book knowledge language skills that the ILTS or Toefl try to evaluate.

Feel free to contact me with further questions.

Kristine

Kristine Riedel-Fiddick,
[REDACTED]