

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2013 11:24 PM
To: Standard Consultation
Subject: English test for doctors--sibmission

Hi,

Notice in Medical Observer that APHRA is inviting submissions regarding the English exam. Where I think it is fair that people be tested but APHRA CANNOT and SHOULD not have country of origin as the criterion for deciding whose English needs testing prior to being able to practice in Australia.

I am a doctor trained locally in Australia but have my school qualifications from overseas.

I have lived in Australia for 20 years and after 15 years of being here I decided to change professions and do a medical degree. ALL my education in my home country (India) was in English. I have a PhD from India and after coming to Australia I completed a Masters degree in Project Management and a Graduate Diploma in Public Health ALL in English.

However none of these qualifications were counted when I was to apply for an intern position. APHRA regulations compelled me to get my ability to read, write and comprehend English assessed through the English exam.

I think the current rule permitting only citizens from certain countries from not having to appear for the English exam is ludicrous. The origin of the country SHOULD NOT be the sole criteria. Actually the country where schooling was completed should NOT be the sole criteria.

For instance one of my class mates was an American but lived most of his life and was educated in Thailand. He did year 12 in the US but his English was much wanting. However because he was an American citizen he was exempt from sitting for the English exam. The spelling and grammitcal errors of Australian graudates should be seen to be believed, but they do NOT have to appear for an English exam.

Contrast that with my study and work experience (15 years in Australia working in the Government and Private sectors and obtaining two Post Graduate degrees here) which eventually came to nought. I HAD to appear for the English exam to be eligible to practice in Australia. I spoke to someone in APHRA but there are no grounds for appealing, they tell you you can apply without sitting the English exam but are not likely to be successful when APHRA assesses. Why would someone take the risk. NOTHING in my practice has changed after appearing for the exam except that I wasted half a day and \$330 appearing for it to what end--who knows.

APHRA does definitely needs to broaden its practices and consider individual cases.

Kind regards

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