

Public Consultation on the Revised Registration Standard: Specialist Registration

Dear AHPRA Review Committee,

I have been living and working in Australia for many years. I am a medical doctor by profession, and I work as a General Practitioner. I write to make a submission for the ongoing public consultation.

The Idea of bringing in some overseas trained SIMGs (Specialist International Medical Graduates) from competent pathway countries into Australia and within 6 months granting them specialist recognition to continue alongside with the Fellowship program awarded by the Specialist Colleges, is great and very much welcome. It's a positive step in the right direction. With the aim being to provide Australians with more specialists as well as reducing wait times of seeing a specialist.

While this is a welcome development, it is also important to look inwards and consider other Doctors that are already in Australia, working in lower positions than the trainings they have acquired. AHPRA should also look inwards and consider these group of Australian SIMGs who have been in the system for years and more, some up to 20 years.

These group of doctors have some unique advantages:

- a. They have previously been in the Specialist Pathway of AHPRA, and their overseas specialist qualifications had been validated by the Specialist Colleges as being comparable (partial and substantial). It's unfortunate that they could not achieve their Fellowship on time for some reasons-some of which was not passing some exams which had now been discontinued by the Specialist Colleges in favour of work-based assessments (WBA).
- b. These doctors are Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents and have been practising in a culturally competent manner, they are well equipped and experienced with the operations of the Australian Health System having worked in Australia for 5 years, some over 20 years.
- c. These group of Australian SIMGs are more familiar with the available resources, referral pathways and support services within the Country. Their specialist recognition under the fast-tracked pathway can lead to more efficient and coordinated care for patients in Australia.

d. Majority of these doctors have had additional up-skilling training grants through their Specialist Colleges paid for by Australian taxpayers. The knowledge and experiences acquired from these training needs to be fully utilized, to the benefit of the Australian population.

e. These doctors have practiced in Australia for years, just on General Registration and not being able to use the title 'Specialist' as they have not been given specialists recognition in Australia.

In summary, while AHPRA looks at bringing in Doctors from overseas and upgrading them to Specialists, its equally Fair and Just to consider these Australian SIMGs who have previously worked or currently working in Australia in senior medical positions as Consultants, Senior Medical Officers, Senior Medical Practitioners, Clinical Directors, etc. These doctors have served this Nation's Health Care System for many years, it's fair to equally consider them in the planned expedited pathway to Specialist recognition.

Thank you for taking bold steps to resolve Australian Health Care needs.

Regards,

Australian Doctor.