

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 June 2024 8:08 PM  
**To:** Specialist IMG Pathways Review  
**Subject:** Registration Standard: Specialist Registration- Public Consultation.

Dear AHPRA Review Committee

I am a member of the Australian public and I am a medical practitioner. I am happy to make a submission on this public consultation.

The goal of bringing in some overseas trained SIMGs(Specialist International Medical Graduates) into Australia and within 6 months granting them specialist recognition is laudable, welcomed and I support it. This is to continue alongside with the Fellowship program awarded by the Specialist Colleges. The aim is to provide Australian with more specialists and reduce wait times.

However, AHPRA should also look inwards and consider a cohort of Australian SIMGs who have been in this system for 5 years to more than 20 years .

These cohort of doctors have the following peculiar advantages viz

1. 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 the Fellowship on time for some reasons, some of which are not passing some exams which had now been discontinued in Specialist Colleges favour of work based assessments(WBA).
2. These cohort of doctors are Australian citizens and permanent residents and had been culturally competent, well versed, equipped and experienced with the operations of the Australian Health System having worked in Australia between 5 years and over 20 years.
3. Some members of this cohort of doctors has had additional up-skilling training grants via their Specialist Colleges paid for by Australian tax payers and the knowledge and experiences from these trainings are now wasted , which should have been better used to serve the Australian population.
4. These cohort of doctors had practiced safely in this Australia for over 5 years to more than 20 years mostly as with general registration and they are not allowed to use the title 'specialist' as they have not been given specialists recognition in Australia.
5. It's only just and fair to include these cohort of Australian SIMGs who have been practicing safely in this Country and also include them in the proposed AHPRA fast tracked or expedited pathway to specialist recognition.

In conclusion, AHPRA should please consider these cohort of Australian SIMGs who had previously and currently worked in the Australian health system in senior medical positions like consultants, senior medical officers, senior medical practitioners and clinical directors. They have served this Nation for many years safely in the Health system and should be considered in the fast tracked/ expedited pathway to specialist recognition.

Thank you

Dr. Emmanuel Okereke