



Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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16<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Secretary

**Re: Inquiry into the factors affecting the supply of Health Services and Medical professionals in Rural Areas.**

Great Lakes Council covers some 3,300km<sup>2</sup> with many inland villages. These communities are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain Doctors.

One issue that I would like to raise is the accreditation of overseas trained doctors (OTD's). I am advised that the accreditation progress in Australia for OTD's is lengthy and cumbersome.

A solution the committee could examine is whether the training that Doctor's receive in their country of origin could be accredited by Australian authorities. This would enable Doctor's to move more freely between countries.

Yours faithfully

 Glenn Handford  
GENERAL MANAGER