



Bega orthopaedic surgeon to appear at overseas trained doctors inquiry

Bega (NSW) orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Christoph Ahrens, will appear before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing on Tuesday 16 August 2011. To have their qualifications accredited and be registered to work independently, overseas trained specialists must meet the requirements of the relevant specialist medical college. Dr Ahrens' case highlights the fact that these requirements do not always have the capacity to account for overseas trained doctors who have come to Australia with substantial experience in their field overseas.

Also appearing before the Committee will be Dr Ayman Shenouda. Dr Shenouda is the principal of a large general practice in Wagga Wagga (NSW). Dr Shenouda has implemented a range of measures into his practice which have assisted international medical graduates to become familiar with the Australian medical system and deal effectively with the needs of patients in regional Australia.

Committee Chair, Mr Steve Georganas MP said "There are some inherent issues in the current system of medical accreditation and registration that need to be examined. Some of these issues form part of the reason why many small communities in Australia have difficulty in attracting and retained a highly skilled medical workforce".

PROGRAM

12:00pm	Dr Christoph Ahrens
12:30pm	Dr Ayman Shenouda
1:00pm	Close

The hearing will be held in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House CANBERRA

The hearing will be webcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

All are welcome to attend.

For media comment, please contact Hannah Frank from the Office of Steve Georganas MP, Committee Chair on (08) 8376 9000.

For all other enquiries, please contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/haa.