



12/5/2011

SENATE INQUIRY INTO AHPRA's CAPACITY AND ABILITY

I am a practicing Ophthalmologist of 40 years and have never previously failed to renew my Medical Registration on time.

On 15th April 2011, I was informed by mail that I was unregistered.

I had received no prior notification of renewal or any other communication whatsoever from AHPRA.

I took immediate steps to fast track my Medical Registration renewal and was informed that this had been accomplished on the 21st April 2011 by email from the Registration Officer M/s Maria Acevedo.

I had previously confirmed my registration with the NSW AMA shortly after 30 September 2010 and tacitly believed that my registration would need to be renewed on 30 September 2011.

After 21st April 2011, I then found that a number of my recent patients had been refused their Medicare refund for consultations during the period before this confirmation email. This caused distress to the patients and to me as I had not been informed that this would be the case.

I believe that my short non registration period related totally to absent communication by AHPRA, and have signed a Statutory Declaration to that effect.

It would seem evident that some contact by AHPRA would be mandatory before a Medical Practitioner was summarily removed from the Medical Register.

Yours sincerely,

