



Committee to examine doctors' English language requirement

The House of Representatives Committee on Health and Ageing will hold a public hearing in Melbourne on Wednesday 31 August 2011 as part of its inquiry into overseas trained doctors registration and support processes. The focus will be on the English Language Skills Registration Standard required by the Medical Board of Australia for overseas trained doctors wishing to practice in Australia. The Committee will discuss the Standard with a range of stakeholders including test providers, academics and English language teachers.

Committee Chair, Steve Georganas MP said: "While recognising the need for good communication skills, many overseas trained doctors have told the Committee that the Medical Board's English registration standard has an academic rather than practical communication focus. As a result they feel disadvantaged, even though many believe that they possess a level of English which enables them to communicate effectively with their patients and co-workers".

The Committee will also hear from the Melbourne Medical Deputising Service regarding their ability to recruit and maintain an adequate medical workforce.

PROGRAM

10:00am	Occupational English Test (OET) Centre
10:20am	IDP Australia Pty Ltd (IELTS Australia)
10:40am	Pearson Australia Group
11:00am	<i>Break</i>
11:15am	Forum with English Language Academics and Teachers
12:30pm	Melbourne Medical Deputising Service
1:00pm	<i>Close</i>

**The hearing will be held in Seminar Room 1, Monash University Conference Centre
Level 7, 30 Collins St MELBOURNE**

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

All are welcome to attend.

For media comment, please contact the Chair of the Committee, Mr Steve Georganas by phone 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.