Submission No. 10 (Overseas Trained Doctors) Date: 20/01/2011

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STANDING COMMITTEE 1 9 JAN 2011 ON HEALTH AND AGEING

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The Secretary, Secretariat Overseas Trained Doctors Inquiry, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing Parliament House ,Canberra.

Subject: English Proficiency Exam for the AMC successful Graduates again and again ??

Dear Sir/Madam

I am an International Medical Graduate who have successfully passed all the examinations of the Australian Medical Council such as the English Proficiency the OET with B Grade in all 4 English skills ,the MCQ exam (theory) and the Clinical exam in May 2007.

I am a New Zealand citizen and have over 8 years GP experience in Pakistan.

The NSW Medical Board raised an issue of English proficiency in early 2007 that all AMC graduates must provide English proficiency result less than two years at the time of internship (one year supervised training). I provided the English result to the AMC before my medicine exams and that was a mandatory requirement of the council. According to the AMC pathway (Booklet, 2006-07) to get a registration has been successfully made but I have been unable to get registration by the board to start my one year supervised training program yet.

I completed all my exams in May 2007 and the new English policy came in to power on 1st of July 2007. It was ridiculous that the Board treated us very badly and the new English policy was applied equally to successful AMC graduates and those who were planning to start the AMC exams .I understand that a new policy is always applied to new applicants. In 2007 ,the Board granted hundreds of registration to IMGs just only on the basis of English .At that time English became primary/secondary/tertiary criteria for getting a registration in NSW.

I approached several politicians

All these respected people asked the board members regarding my case but they declined their requests.

According to Health Act 1992, registration is available to those doctors who have obtained the AMC exams, passed the AMC exams and obtained the AMC certificates. According to the above law I have completed all the requirements but unfortunately I have been unable to get the registration by the board yet. (A copy of letter is attached)

I financed thousand of dollars and my precious time to complete all the above steps and finally they pushed me in a hell.

After doing the English(with B Grade in all 4 skills) ,I remained in Australia and did the medicine exams .I do not think that my English was slipped backward. I believe that two years English result validity is totally wrong if a candidate remains in English speaking country. I discussed the above issue with many English teachers and they said that the validity must be 5 years.

I have suffered a lot just because of English policy. I am so frustrated ,depressed and recently have been diagnosed Diabetes type two. My whole family have been suffering from depression. I have 4 young children aged 9, 7,6 and 2 years old and they look forward to me .You can believe me "I could not have a good sleep for many months just uncertainty of my future.

I permanently migrated to Australia in 2005 and brought about \$ 40000 which I already financed to complete my AMC exams. I have a big family and therefore, I have just started to drive taxi to feed my children. It is a terrible time on my family to survive here.

I have written the same OET English exam 19th time over the last 3 years and passed 3 skills several times but failed in 4th. This endless exercising is continuing and now it is causing adverse effects on my performance and health.(Copies of old and new English result are attached).

I believe that some authorities have put "red label" with my name and that is making problem in my success. I have done OET several times very well but they intentionally failed me in one component. The reason which I considered is to approaching several politicians and few federal agencies such as Ombudsman. I have spent about \$ 15000 to pay the OET fees and few preparation courses. I understand that now the OET department should consider the following things

1.My previous OET result in which I received 4 B in 2004, similar requirement today.

2.My overall efforts to pass the exam in 19th times

3.My precious time which I spent on endless test.

4.My thousands of dollars which I spent on exam fees again and again.

5.My AMC examinations efforts in which I performed well and got the AMC certificate. 6.They also consider situation of candidates who do such endless test again and again? It is an important factor that a person who passed the same English exam with same B grade before medicine exams and now has been unable to pass the similar exam? It need to be investigated that where is a problem?

I feel hopeless and helpless and look forward to you to solve the above issue. I understand that Australian Government can start an English communication skill course for such doctors who have similar problem to pass the OET exam .It will be less cost effective to get dozens of doctors in areas of need.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely, Dr.Nasir Mehmood Baig