Submission No. 133 (Overseas Trained Doctors) Date: 30/03/2011

AOC.

My name is and I have graduated from the University of Yerevan, Armenia in 1989, as a Dental Surgeon. I continued my study by specializing in Periodontology and oral disease (1989 to 1992). I worked for 3 years as a periodontologist in the Military Hospital in Damascus, Syria (1992 -1995). I ran my own private clinic in my home city of Kamishli between 1995-1999. In addition to practising as a dental practitioner and periodontogist, I presented a paper at the first Scientific Symposium of the Syrian Society of Periodontoly entitled *Bone grafts and directed tissue regeneration.*' I received an official appreciation from the Preliminary Committee of the Second Conference of the Union of the Arab Dentists and the 10 Scientific Conferences of the Syrian Dental Association.

I arrived in Australia on 14th October 1999 and enrolled at Kangan Batman TAFE. I completed the Certificate II in English for Vocational Education & Further Study (general stream) in December 31, 2000. I was unsuccessful enrolling at Victoria University to prepare for the OET as there was no vacancy for new students. At that time dentists had to pass with levels A and B. The teacher sent me to RMIT for preparation for OET with Nurses - which I successfully completed (Vocational Skills and Language for Overseas Qualified Nurses) on 16 August 2001. Victoria University admitted me in 2002 eventually sitting the OET test for the first time and achieving 4 Cs . Level "C" was acceptable for GP's but only level B was acceptable for dentists. I started to gain 'B' scores in each further test each time that I sat the test. I repeated this course every 6 months and the OET five times until I passed the OET in 2004 in February.

MCQ's and ADC preliminary Examination

I repeated the test 3 times; each time passing the Multiple Choice Questions with levels A and B but failing in the short answer Questions. In September 2005 I successfully passed the MSQ.

Clinical exam 2007

I have done the Dental clinical program at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. This 20 week course of preparation for the clinical exam in 2006 cost me \$15,500. My test was in Queensland which required me to live in a hotel for one week at a cost of \$ 2000 . I failed in the clinical exam. I had a loan from the bank under my brother in law's sponsorship, however, up until now I have only been able to afford to pay the interest – I can't pay anything off the capital.

Second Clinical Exam 2008

I prepared for this exam very well for one year by attending the Royal Dental Hospital in supplementary sessions, each session costing \$160. As well, I have bought manikins and plastic teeth and practised at home. I received evaluations and advice from my former teacher from the Royal Dental Hospital. I gave the clinical exam in Perth, staying at a hotel which cost \$2000. The cost of the clinical exam was \$ 5500.

The end result of this clinical exam was complete disappointment. I appealed against their incorrect allegation that the infiltrative anaesthesia did not achieve the desired result, and that I was not able to recognise a carcinoma and refuted their allegation that I had done a lot of trauma to the soft tissue when I was scaling and cleaning. All these things were part of my assessment.

I applied for the next exam and paid the fee and they sent me an application form for November 2009. One week later they informed me that the rules had changed and now I had to pass the OET again.

OET Listening Reading Writing Speaking

17 JAN 2009 D C D C

I did on line the OET at Victoria University 02 May 2009 C D C C Aug 2009 C C C C

I did the preparation course at CAE (intensive course 18 week) with perfect attendance and a high level of class participation

 Nov 2009
 C
 C
 C
 C
 C

 13 Feb 2010
 C
 B
 C
 C
 C

I attended Holmesglen TAFE (their intensive course - 20 weeks). The teacher,

forwarded a letter to the OET centre about my difficulty in hearing high frequencies (and informing my performance in the classroom was at levels A and B). OET Test

16 OCT 2010 D C C C

3

Please note I have special provision to use headphones in the listening sub test.

Now I am not working and am doing a Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled / division 2 nursing) at Career Australia. (Started in October 2010 until now). I was recently admitted into Holmesglen's Certificate III in Dental Lab Technology course.