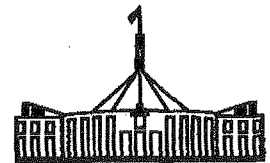




PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
27th January 2011

HON BOB KATTER MP

Federal Member for Kennedy



Submission No. 109
(Overseas Trained Doctors)
Date: 24/02/2011

Mr Steve Georganas MP
Chair
Committee to Inquire into Overseas Trained Doctors' Registration and Support
Standing Committee on Health and Ageing
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Georganas,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Inquiry.

Overseas Trained Doctors form an integral part of rural and regional Australia's medical workforce. In cities, we have one doctor per 300 people. In the country as a whole we have one doctor per 600 people. We have one doctor per 2, 000 people in the southern end of Cairns. Without overseas trained doctors, Regional Australia could not function.

The registration and support processes for Overseas Trained Doctors (OTDs) are a disgrace. The treatment of foreign doctors is absolutely appalling. The current system lacks transparency, accountability and stakeholder participation. The Australian Medical Council has a monopoly which is critical in relation to the treatment of international medical graduates.

It is our people in Queensland that are suffering. Our office has been inundated with a substantial amount of emails from constituents raising concerns about the lack of transparent assessment processes for registration and lack of support for overseas trained doctors. Regional Australia is detrimentally affected by the outrageous registration and support processes for foreign doctors.

We need to provide support for international medical graduates, who are serving regional and rural Australia. A balance should be met between ensuring registration processes and competency assessments are rigorous and can provide the necessary support for the competent overseas trained doctors to stay in Australia, and in particular work in our regional and rural areas. The supply of these much-needed doctors and nurses are critical to the health of people living in regional communities.

Kind regards,

Hon Bob Katter MP
Member for Kennedy

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REPRESENTING

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