



15<sup>th</sup> August 2011

To The House Standing Committee on Health & Ageing  
Australian Government  
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**SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO REGISTRATION  
PROCESSES AND SUPPORT FOR OVERSEAS TRAINED DOCTORS**

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Ms Kathy Ingham. I hold the position of Manager in the Centre for Medical Professional Development, Hunter New England Health. I have worked with the International Medical Graduate Program (IMG) since 2007 and my role has been to ensure the education and support is provided for the doctors during their transition into the Australian Healthcare System. Our centre has been awarded the Baxter Award and the Ministers Award for this program. Our Centre has also introduced the IMG Workplace Based Assessment program, one of the first in Australia.

The issues which I am aware that our IMGs face are:-

- Lack of consistency by Health Services when recruiting the doctors, co-ordinating their orientations, the induction of the doctors and the mentoring of the IMGs.
- A lack of support for the IMGs and their families which includes no Medicare and high school fees for their children.
- Funding for the support of these doctors is inadequate and currently funding provided is not recurrent.
- The majority of the investment into the education of these doctors has been undertaken by another country. The relative cost involved in orientating and integrating the skills of these doctors is minimal, especially when compared to the benefits to the Australian Healthcare system.

Yours sincerely

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