



# Overseas Trained Doctors Inquiry heads to Hunter Valley

The House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee will hold a public hearing on 27 September 2011 in the Hunter Valley to discuss the registration processes and support available for overseas trained doctors (OTDs) seeking full Australian registration and accreditation. Ways to remove impediments and promote pathways for OTD's to achieve full Australian qualification, particularly in regional areas, without lowering the necessary standards required by colleges and regulatory bodies will be explored.

Committee Chair, Mr Steve Georganas MP said: "As with many areas of regional Australia, the Hunter Valley also experiences a shortage of doctors to serve the local community. Helping to alleviate this situation are a range of localised initiatives including the fact that the region is one of only four sites nationally that provides foreign trained doctors the option to be assessed through workplace-based assessment rather than the traditional clinical examination format".

## PROGRAM

9:30am	Hunter New England Health
11:00am	<i>Break</i>
11:15am	School of Rural Medicine, University of New England
11:45am	GP Access (Hunter Rural Division of General Practice)
12:15pm	NSW Rural Doctor's Network
12:45pm	<i>Break</i>
1.30pm	Doctors Forum
2:30pm	Dr John Relic
3:00pm	<i>Close</i>

**The hearing will be held in Meeting Room 1, Area Headquarters, Hunter New England Local Health District, Lookout Road, New Lambton, NSW**

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

Observers welcome to attend

**For media comment**, contact Hannah Frank from the Office of Steve Georganas on 0419 849 048.  
**For all other enquiries**, contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/haa](http://www.aph.gov.au/haa).