

26<sup>th</sup> January 2009

## One Easy Step To Alleviate The GP Shortage

Dear Sir / Madam,

We migrated to the UK 4 years ago and are now Australian citizens.

My wife is a UK trained GP, having studied at Charing Cross Hospital – one of London's best medical schools.

Prior to leaving the UK, she had 4 years of post qualification experience as a partner at a vibrant GP practice near London.

She is very willing and able to join the workforce here in Sydney.

Unfortunately we have been advised that she could start work tomorrow but that within 9 months, she would have to register to sit all the RACGP exams. As she sees it, that is like starting from scratch and has concluded that it is "too big an ask" and will instead look for another role.

We hear of many other well qualified doctors in the same situation.

It makes no sense at all.

I am hoping that you can challenge the AMA and the RACGP to lift some of the barriers to entry that have been put in place to protect Australian trained GPs.

My understanding is that the government agreed to these barriers to entry ten plus years ago, at a time when there was no shortage of GPs and they wanted to use this as a way to control the spend on healthcare. Times have changed and the current rules are not in the public interest.

By clearing this roadblock, you could almost instantly introduce a significant number of highly skilled / experienced doctors to the workforce. Surely this is the kind of solution that you are looking for – a low cost / low risk and quick fix.

Good luck and kind regards,

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