

To Whom It May Concern

TE Trans Tasman Mutual Agreement - Submission 2015

I am a naturalised Kiwi doctor from South Africa - left there in 1993 and registered in NZ and worked here and Australia in the 90s. I then returned to Australia in the 2000s for a training program and now I am back and working in rural NZ. And yet I am excluded form the TTA as the agreement excludes non Kiwi grads!

I have finally - after many years on this - had two letters from NZ government agency and the MP Health Minster for Australia - advising that my NZ registration as a doctor and work here has no bearing on the Australian decision to register me - even though there is a mutual agreement bound in the Trans Tasman Mutual Agreement - based on advice from yourselves - which you say is just advice! The main submission being from the AMC suggesting there is no need to change the process - as there are different standards for third party citizens in the systems.

Few things:-

South Africa degrees and skills were sort after in the 90s when the Australian workforce could not then (and still not in some areas) provide for rural areas.

These degrees now are considered not part of the 'competent authority'.

So - as before with my case I could work in Australia because of my skills but now as a NZ doctor registered and with citizenship I am judged unable - as my primary degree is from SA.

There are concerns about different standards in assessment .. there has never been a published piece regarding this.

The agreement stands as it has not been changed- till a new submission for this year.

Concerns about standards and doctors using NZ as a stepping stone are unfounded and anachronistic.

The New Zealand Medical Council say its an Australian thing but they are a member of the process to agreement and the NZ Government say its out of their frame - although they are TTA signatories.

Can I ask that this is considered properly and with good evidence - not just 'submissions' and politics.

I bank in NZ with an Aussie owned bank

I use a Aussie tax agent with an office in NZ

I pay tax and rego in both countries

I pay Super - with new laws which are harmonised.

I worked in Australasia in the 90s with my South African skills and the 2000s with my Kiwi skills in a training program BUT I cannot get generally registered even though I have membership with a college and now have to do the AMC exam based on an exit process for final medical students when I am at a different level - skills and knowledge and cognitively. (The irony is that I did American exams over ten years ago and this would count now BUT has passed the ten year ruling)

Please correct this anomaly.

It contravenes the NZ Human Rights Act - but not the Australian 'Act' - till recent ruling re Chinese national neutralised and working in Canberra.

<http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/news/latest-news/act-gov-racist-for-denying-img-internship-tribuna>

The NZHRC advise the 'discrimination' takes place in Australia.

This is a TRANS TASMAN MUTUAL AGREEMENT !!

Thanks

Richard

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Recent feedback - Healthworkforce NZ

'When considering an international medical graduate's application for registration, many countries take the country in which the applicant obtained their primary medical degree as the starting point for assessing the applicant. I can only reiterate that New Zealand has no jurisdiction over decisions made by the relevant Australian regulatory authority or medical college.

As I note previously, the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement (TTMRA) currently excludes medical practitioners. There may be an opportunity for you to comment on the exclusion of medical practitioners when the TTMRA is next reviewed in 2015. Details about the scope of the review and when it will start should be available on the Australian Productivity Commission website (<http://www.pc.gov.au/>).