

From: Katherine Michelmore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 November 2013 12:04 PM
To: Standard Consultation
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: English Proficiency Recognition

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am currently reading the Medical Observer (8/11/13) and there is an article regarding reconsideration for the list of "recognized countries" for English proficiency in doctors.

I recently immigrated to Australia and have been working as a GP in the Illawarra. At the time of my relocation I was required to complete an English Proficiency IELTS examination because my country of high school education (Bermuda) was not recognized. Bermuda is an English speaking country and is still recognized as a self-governing British Colony. English is the official language and is the only language spoken by the majority of Bermudians.

In my individual case, English is my first language and the only language that I speak fluently. I attended primary and high school in Bermuda obtaining amongst my "O" Level examinations, A grades for English and English Literature. I then proceeded to complete "A" Levels in England. I studied medicine at a British University (Newcastle upon Tyne) and completed pre-registration House Jobs in England. I then studied at Oxford University as the Bermuda Rhodes Scholar and earned a DPhil in Epidemiology. I completed Vocational Training as a GP in Newcastle Upon Tyne. I returned to Bermuda and worked in General Practice, Occupational Health, and completed a term as an Opposition Senator for the Bermuda Legislature.

In spite of the history outlined above, I was still required to travel to the USA from Bermuda to complete an IELTS examination to prove my English Proficiency. This was at great inconvenience and expense, and was in my opinion totally unnecessary. I would request that Bermuda be added to the list of "recognized countries", but also that some provision be made to allow "common sense" to prevail in cases where an individual can clearly demonstrate English proficiency, rather than relying on bureaucratic inflexible guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Katherine Michelmore MBBS, DPhil, MRACGP

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