

Subject: Aphra Public consultation: Specialist registration

Dear AHPRA Review Committee

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission in this public consultation.

I am a member of the Australian public, and I am a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

The goal of bringing in some overseas trained SIMGs (Specialist International Medical Graduates) from competent pathway countries into Australia and within 6 months granting them specialist recognition is welcomed and a good idea in principle and I support it. This is to continue alongside with the Fellowship programs awarded by the Specialist Colleges. From Aphra's newsletter the medical specialties with critical of shortages are GPs, anaesthetics, obstetrics and psychiatrists and the aim of this proposed idea is to provide the Australian population with more specialists and reduce wait times of seeing a specialist.

**It is however important to bring to Aphra's attention, a cohort of Australian SIMGs(Specialist IMGs)who have been in this system for more 5 years and some up to 20 years or more and include them in the proposed fast tracked pathway to specialist recognition**

These cohort of doctors(Australian SIMGs) have the following peculiar advantages viz

1. They have previously been in the Specialist Pathway of AHPRA, and their overseas specialist qualifications had been validated by the Specialist Colleges as being comparable (partial and substantial). It's unfortunate that they could not achieve their Fellowship on time for some reasons.
2. These cohort of Australian SIMGs had previously and currently worked in the Australian health system in senior medical positions like consultants, senior medical officers, senior medical practitioners and clinical directors. They have been involved in training junior doctors in their roles They have served this Nation for many years safely in the health system and should be considered in the fast tracked/ expedited pathway to specialist recognition.
3. These cohort of Australian SIMGs are more familiar with the available resources, referral pathways and support services within the Country. Their specialist recognition under the fast-tracked pathway can lead to more efficient and coordinated care for patients in Australia.

4. These cohort of doctors are Australian citizens and permanent residents and had been practising in a culturally competent manner and they are well equipped and experienced with the operations of the Australian Health System having worked in Australia between 5 years and over 20 years.
  
5. In conclusion, AHPRA should please consider, these cohort of Australian SIMGs who had practiced safely in this Australia for over 5 years to more than 20 years mostly with Aphra's general registration and they are not allowed to use the title 'specialist' as they have not been given specialists recognition in Australia. It's only **just and fair** to include these cohort of Australian SIMGs into the fast tracked or expedited pathway to specialist recognition.

Thank you.

Kind Regards

**Olatunbosun Julius Ajayi**