
From: alex lazarus
Sent: Tuesday, 23 October 2018 6:04 AM
To: dentalboardconsultation
Subject: Limited registration pathway closure

Limited Registration pathway closure.

I came to Australia on 457 visa in 2014. I joined the South Australian Dental Services which provided much needed dental care to regional South Australians. I was one of 10 South African qualified dentists.

From 2014 to 2018 the number of limited registration dentists declined as a result of some dentists gaining full registration in New Zealand (3). A few dentists passed the ADC difficulty practical examination (5). Many of them required multiple attempts and even have their limited registration renewed. Four dentists were unsuccessful in gaining full registration including myself. Two of these attained permanent residency on their spouse and stopped practicing. Myself and another dentist were forced to return to South Africa because of no further sponsorship from SADS.

The DBA were well aware of the difficulties the limited registrants were having with the exam but no solution was provided.

Although the number of limited registrants is 'negligible' as documented in the DBA consultation paper on the proposed closure of the scheme. They do not note the tremendous sacrifices foreign dentists made to supply the then high demand for dentists. Since 2005 the Australian public had no issues with dental care they were receiving from limited registrants. Now, in 2018 it is suggested closure of the scheme is in the interest of public safety.

It is important to note that limited registrants practiced clinical dentistry and became familiar with common medical histories in Australia. The exam tests 100% ideal preparation skills which never present in day to day dentistry. For this reason the examination was changed in July 2018. The new exam is more transparent and only uses one venue in Melbourne. Exams are also held every two weeks. The new exam has an OSCE component. All these changes were too late for a few limited registrants including myself.

I truly feel I was wanted when there was need and the moment I needed more support I was slowly pushed out without regard to the difficulties I had to overcome to get there and help Australians.

It is difficult to understand why you deemed unfit to practice dentistry based on one weekend's manikin work and then present to work on Monday and treat real patients competently.

I hope that limited registrants get the recognition they deserve for the care they provide. They should be allowed an alternative pathway to full registration.

Kind regards

Dr Lazarus