

HEALTH COMMISSION
OF NEW SOUTH WALES,
McKell Building,
Rawson Place,
HAYMARKET. 2000

217-6666 extn. 5782....

(Dr. T. Smyth)

File No.: C.11397, C.11374

Circular No.: C.13260
82/17

Issued: 11 January 1982

A. 13

B. -

C. 17

D. 9

E. -

F. -

G. -

H. -

I. -

J. 11

K. -

(Distributed in accordance with Circular List/s A,C,D & J)

EMPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS MEDICAL GRADUATES AND OTHER GRADUATES WITHOUT FULL
MEDICAL REGISTRATION WITH THE NEW SOUTH WALES MEDICAL BOARD

Introduction:

1. This circular outlines Commission policy on the employment of overseas medical graduates and other graduates without full medical registration in New South Wales. The circular covers three areas in particular:

- (a) Internships.
- (b) Employment of medical graduates without full medical registration.
- (c) Recruitment of overseas medical graduates.

2. Underlying the Commission policy is the need to ensure that medical manpower is consistent with the health care needs of the State and that expenditure of public monies on health care is confined to areas of direct relevance to those needs.

3. Subject to the exceptions outlined in this circular, medical graduates may only be employed if they have full registration with the New South Wales Medical Board.

Internships:

4. The placement of all interns in New South Wales (Other than to the Albury Base Hospital) is made by the Health Commission of New South Wales.

5. In general, only graduates of the Universities of Sydney, New South Wales and Newcastle may be employed as interns in New South Wales.

6. Placement into internships of other graduates (including those from interstate) will only be made by the Commission where the graduate concerned can demonstrate that special circumstances exist (e.g., family commitments) which necessitate undergoing an internship in New South Wales.

Employment of Medical Graduates without full Medical Registration (other than interns)

7. The employment, as medical officers, of medical graduates without full

.../2

medical registration must be approved by the Health Commission of New South Wales.

8. The approval of the Health Commission is also required for the payment of a salary or other remuneration utilizing Commission funds to medical graduates (other than interns) who do not possess full medical registration with the N.S.W. Medical Board.

9. The attention of hospitals is again drawn to Circular 81/131 concerning Section 21 certificates under the current Medical Practitioners Act and Circular 81/297 which outlines substantial amendments to that Act.

10. As Section 21 certificate holders are registered solely for the purposes of post-graduate teaching, tuition or research they are unable to fully perform all the duties of a resident medical officer. In particular, holders of Section 21 certificates may not work unsupervised at night or on weekends. As such, they may not receive a salary or other remuneration utilizing Commission funds without the approval of the Health Commission.

Recruitment of Overseas Medical Graduates:

11. The Commonwealth Government has recently reviewed its policy with regard to the entry of overseas medical graduates. Entry other than on a temporary basis, refugee or family reunion is restricted to graduates with an employer nomination.

12. An employer nomination requires evidence being provided to demonstrate that a prospective immigrant doctor is coming to practise in a position which cannot be filled from the Australian medical workforce despite concerted recruitment action.

13. All such applications for employment in New South Wales are referred by the Commonwealth to the Health Commission for its advice and support. In general the Commission will only support the application when there is a demonstrated urgent need for the position to be filled.

14. Temporary visas are often sought by overseas medical graduates for the purposes of post graduate training and research. In general, the policy of the New South Wales Government is that such programmes should be co-ordinated wherever possible by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau to ensure that the training is appropriate to the needs of the graduate and his home country.

15. The approval of the Health Commission is required for the payment of a salary or other remuneration utilizing Commission funds, to overseas medical graduates whether settling permanently in Australia or on a temporary visa.

16. In all instances where the employment of an overseas medical graduate is contemplated the advice of the New South Wales Medical Board should be sought to assess the suitability of the applicant for medical registration in New South Wales.

K.R. BROWN,
Secretary.