



MEDIA RELEASE

24 JUNE 2003

Exam Help for Overseas Trained Doctors

Overseas Trained Doctors now have access to world's best practice clinical information to help them prepare for work in the Australian healthcare environment.

A new resource guide – *Anthology of Medical Conditions* – has been prepared for the Australian Medical Council (AMC) by a team of Australian experts. It tailors state of the art Canadian resource material to the Australian healthcare environment and is a joint initiative between the AMC and the Medical Council of Canada.

AMC Deputy President, Dr Joanna Flynn, said the resource aimed to prepare candidates for the Australian Medical Council examination, which overseas trained doctors' must pass before being able work without restrictions in Australia.

“Overseas trained doctors play a vital role in Australia’s medical workforce,” Dr Flynn said. “In developing this anthology, the AMC has recognised the challenge many people face in translating their knowledge and experience to the Australian environment.”

Dr Flynn said the anthology filled an important gap in the support available to overseas trained doctors aiming to work in Australia.

“The anthology is a diagnostic manual and an Australian first. It provides pragmatic clinical information to doctors trained overseas, who are unfamiliar with the pattern of illness in Australian patients,” she said.

The resource was an important step in improving access to medical services in rural and remote Australian communities. “By providing better information to overseas trained doctors hoping to join the Australian medical workforce, the AMC is working strategically to address one of Australia’s biggest healthcare challenges,” Dr Flynn said.

The AMC is a national organisation responsible for accrediting Australian and New Zealand medical schools, assessing the fitness of overseas trained doctors for Australian medical practice and advising the Commonwealth and the states on a range of issues related to medical registration and the recognition of medical specialties.

The resource manual was launched in Melbourne today by the Victorian Parliamentary Secretary of Health, Mr Daniel Andrews, with Dr Dale Dauphinee, the Executive Director of the Medical Council of Canada.

Media Enquiries: Nicole Newton 0407 998 611