



Media Statement:

AMC improves services to IMGs

29 September 2008

The AMC is introducing a range of process improvements and changes in requirements for Primary Source Verification, Competent Authority Assessments and MCQ Examinations for International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

The changes aim to increase the efficiency of AMC processes, significantly reducing application processing times, improve services to IMGs, medical boards and specialist colleges, and support uniformity of standards and candidate requirements.

The AMC is also introducing changes to the timing of requirements for English language testing, consistent with national standards set by medical boards. The changes aim to close gaps in the expectations of candidates between the Boards and specialist colleges in relation to applicants for registration through the specialist pathway.

From January 2009, medical practitioners seeking registration through the specialist pathway must have demonstrated their English language proficiency *before* assessment by specialist colleges. The standard required is set by medical boards and is nationally consistent.

Introducing the upfront English language test will ensure college assessment resources are focused on candidates who meet national language standards. The AMC will encourage candidates to demonstrate their English language proficiency before undertaking the MCQ exam. English language proficiency and a pass in the AMC MCQ are both pre-requisites for medical registration through the standard pathway in Australia.

Other changes being introduced by the AMC include:

- On-line 24 hour application processing introduced in March 2008. [Some 73% of all applications are now being processed through this system, with a significant reduction in incomplete applications] The AMC is now exploring the extension of this facility to include migration agents and recruiters, subject to privacy laws.
- The introduction of a telephone call centre to provide information to IMGs which is now operational. The call centre number is 02 6270 7878.
- AMC process changes to enable IMGs to schedule to sit MCQ as soon as Primary Source Verification process has begun
- New database accessible to medical boards enabling tracking status of all Primary Source Verification applications, to fast track Board registration processes
- From November 2008, MCQ exam candidate access to 24hour online exam scheduling system – so candidates can register for AMC exams in Australia and offshore.

- New offshore exam capacity coming on-stream in late 2008, including five new exam sites in India at Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi.

These changes aim to increase flexibility and efficiency for IMGs and registration boards while maintaining a firm focus on standards.

While the timing and sequence of AMC processes have been changed, IMGs seeking registration in Australia must still have their primary qualifications verified. The 100-point National Identification check will still be required. False or misleading information on medical qualifications and registration data can incur severe penalties in Australia (including three years imprisonment and up to \$150,000 fines in one jurisdiction).

Ends.

Candidate Enquiries:

AMC Call Centre: 02 6270 7878

Media Enquiries Only:

Nicole Newton 0407 998 611