

AMC REFUTES CLAIMS ABOUT EXAMINATION

A spokesman for the Australian Medical Council has refuted claims made in an article in the Melbourne Herald Sun on 18 February that Australian medical students had performed badly in the examination set for overseas trained doctors.

“The claim that 70 per cent of final year medical students who sat the AMC examination in a trial test had failed is totally incorrect”, the Executive Officer of the AMC, Mr Ian Frank, said today.

A total of 211 final year medical students at Monash University and the University of Sydney completed the AMC multiple choice question (MCQ) examination in October 1995. Mr Frank indicated that the trial test was part of an on-going process to monitor the standard of the AMC examination and the performance of individual questions. The standard of the AMC examination is set at the level of final year medicine in Australia.

“The preliminary results show that 201 of the 211 students who sat the AMC examination (representing 95 per cent of those who sat) obtained overall scores in excess of 50%”, Mr Frank confirmed. “The performance overall of the Australian final year medical students in the MCQ examination and the performance in each of the five major subjects tested was significantly higher than that of the AMC candidates who sat the same examination in 1994,” Mr. Frank indicated.

The results of the October trial test have been processed by an independent national testing authority and are being analysed by the AMC Board of Examiners. The results will be taken into consideration by the Board when setting the 1996 MCQ examination papers.

“Erroneous claims about the standard of the AMC examination, such as those made in the Herald Sun article, only add to the stress of overseas trained doctors who are trying to prepare for the AMC examination”, Mr. Frank said.

The AMC had published the results of the previous large scale calibration tests conducted in 1988 and 1989. It was expected that the results of the recent trial tests would also be published when the exercise was completed.

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December 1997