

Jemma

PERSONA DESCRIPTION

Jemma, 28, female and single has always had her heart set on being a doctor. She did her Higher School Certificate (HSC) twice in New South Wales, striving to get the required score for entry into an Australian medical school and missed out each time by a few points. She decided to apply for training overseas and undertook medical training in the Caribbean. On successfully completing the degree she took the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) assessments with the General Medical Council, UK and worked as a doctor for two years in the UK. She then decided to return to Australia. She had not realised that by training overseas she would have different registration requirements and opportunities compared with her friends who trained in Australia. Jemma was surprised that she will be subject to 10 years moratorium on access to a Medicare provider number.

On returning to Australia Jemma undertook the Competent Authority Pathway. She found it a challenge to her identity to be Australian but be perceived by many of her colleagues as being essentially foreign as she had trained overseas. Jemma is currently seeking a junior doctor position in Australia. Jemma would like to see cultural and system change so that Australia is more accepting of alternative pathways into medicine. She also thinks it unfair that the moratorium applies to international medical graduates and not Australian trainees.

AGE 28 Years of Age GENDER Female

RELATIONSHIP STATUS Single

COUNTRY OF TRAINING Caribbean

STAGE OF TRAINING

Completed medical training and PLAB and two years in UK.

PATHWAY

COMPETENT AUTHORITY PATHWAY

MOTIVATIONS TO COME TO AUSTRALIA

She is Australian – her motivation was to be a doctor and felt that her best option was to study medicine abroad.

AUSTRALIAN WORK LOCATION

Seeking an intern position – currently not working.

STRENGTHS

An understanding of the Australian health context and needs.

CHALLENGES

Expense of studying abroad and status as an international medical graduate on return with requirements.

ASPIRATIONS

To gain an internship.

ENABLERS

To see cultural and system change so that Australia is more accepting of alternative pathways into medicine.

