



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

APR 30 2001

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Professor Ian Simpson
Chairman, Accreditation Committee
Australian Medical Council
13 Napier Close
Deakin ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Professor Simpson:

In February 1995, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the medical accreditation standards used by Australia were comparable to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. On March 9, 2001, the NCFMEA reviewed the information recently provided by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) on its current medical accreditation standards to reassess the comparability of those standards.

I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA, at its March meeting, determined that the current accreditation standards used by the AMC to evaluate medical schools in Australia and New Zealand are comparable to the standards used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. This determination of comparability by the NCFMEA has a maximum duration of six years from the date of this letter, unless the Committee withdraws, extends or renews its determination prior to that date. Before expiration of the six-year period, the NCFMEA will seek to confirm that your standards and procedures for accrediting medical schools in Australia and New Zealand are still comparable to the accreditation standards applied to medical schools in the United States. If so, its previous determination of comparability will be extended for another period.

In an effort to keep apprised of the accreditation activities of the AMC, the NCFMEA has requested that the AMC submit annual reports to the NCFMEA, with the first report scheduled for review at the March 2002 NCFMEA meeting. The purpose of the annual report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of accreditation activities, including the following information:

- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities by the AMC during the past year (January 2001-December 2001), such as accreditation reviews conducted, accreditation decisions reached, accreditation conferences or training sessions held.

- *Summary of any changes or developments in the following areas:*
 - *Laws and Regulations:* Any changes in your country's laws or regulations affecting the accreditation of your medical schools.
 - *Standards, Processes and Procedures:* Any changes in the accreditation standards, processes or procedures that the AMC uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools.
- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of accreditation meetings and listing of on-site visits to medical schools planned for January 2002 – December 2002.

Please send the annual report by January 7, 2002, to the Executive Director of the NCFMEA at the address below:

Bonnie L. LeBold
Executive Director, NCFMEA
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – Room 7007
Washington, D.C. 20006-7563
U.S.A.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Bonnie_LeBold@ed.gov (e-mail).

As a result of the determination of continued comparability by the NCFMEA, any medical school in Australia or New Zealand that is accredited or approved by the AMC may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. If a medical school's application is approved, otherwise eligible students enrolled in the school who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. may receive loans to finance their medical education through the FFEL program. Medical schools that wish to participate in the FFEL program may obtain the proper application forms from the Foreign Schools Team at the following address:

Foreign Schools Team
U.S. Department of Education
Room 3674, ROB-3
7th & D Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20407
U.S.A.

Please note that it is not necessary for medical schools that are currently participating in the FFEL program to contact the Foreign Schools Team at this time; the status of those schools remains unchanged by the NCFMEA's decision of continued comparability.

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I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to our requests for information about your standards and processes for accreditation of medical schools. I very much appreciate the interest you have taken in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige