

## **HPARA is the only organisation that recognises the serious problems in the regulation of health professionals.**

The 2016 and 2017 Senate Inquiries identified many of these, but the political system has failed to act and rectify them.

### **Testimonials**

#### **1**

I am a registered nurse. I was falsely accused of being responsible for an incident in my workplace.

This resulted in a cascade of adverse consequences for my professional and family life

My marriage was destroyed, I am a single mother with two children and I endured the trauma of being suspended from my employment, having adverse findings by the regulation authority against me, losing a tribunal appeal, then successfully appealing that decision.

I was vilified and defamed in a large metropolitan newspaper, my parents mortgaged their home to finance my legal representation and there was no compensation available for the damage that had been done to me and my family.

I am now back working as a nurse but not in the area that I was when the cascade of events above happened. I could not return to the work that I enjoy because of the toxic environment that led to my troubles.

It was comforting to meet other HPARA members who had suffered similar experiences to mine and to have the support and guidance that HPARA provides.

#### **2**

I am a senior consultant surgeon, trained overseas and in Australia with specialist registration in my native country and previously in Australia. My wife and children are Australian as was I. I had a flourishing private practice in a regional area servicing a community of 750,000 people.

A group of specialists in the region notified me to AHPRA using the mandatory notification provision. I was denied natural justice, due process and presumption of innocence by AHPRA when they placed conditions on my registration and publicised that on the AHPRA website.

This caused serious disruption to my practice and to my patients. It caused serious concerns for my family and, but for the dedicated support of my wife, I may have met with a tragic end. We had no alternative but to return to my native country where I now have a successful practice.

I was recognised as a leader in my field and invited to China in two successive years before our departure from Australia to conduct instruction of their surgeons.

It took 2 years and 1 month for AHPRA to reach a final decision on my case. The document advising me of their findings began with an apology for the delay. The multiple complaints lodged about my practice were found to be unsubstantiated.

We are patients of this surgeon who were to have surgery prior to his departure from Australia. We were denied surgery in Australia after his departure. Both of us had to sell our homes to finance the travel and surgery overseas in his native country. This has finally ended the pain, suffering, and inferior quality of life we endured because of the delay to operations.

I am a patient of this surgeon and was denied his services locally. HPARA advised me and, with the assistance of the surgeon, I have now had my surgery at an interstate facility. The delay forced me to suffer pain, additional expenses, dependence on analgesic medication and inferior quality of life for three years.

I am a senior surgeon who worked with the surgeon in the region. I suffered because of my support for him and was notified to AHPRA as a result. This has been stressful and has contributed to my retirement. He is a brilliant surgeon.

#### **3**

I am a general practitioner with a special interest in parasite borne illnesses. I joined HPARA when specialist medical practitioners notified me to AHPRA that immediately placed conditions on my practice. AHPRA then indulged in a sham peer review that supported the notification. There was no attempt to contact the internationally recognised authorities whom I consult, the patients I treated with success or their relatives. The legal representation provided by my medical indemnity insurer has been inept. We have had to move my practice, sell our home and are now being pursued by the insurer for a hefty sum of money allegedly for legal costs.

HPARA has provided support, advice and guidance for my wife and me.

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I am a senior consultant surgeon trained originally overseas and later in Australia with specialist registration in Australia. My wife and children are Australian. specialist registration. I was a staff specialist in a large regional centre but departed to a metropolitan tertiary hospital after harassment from a senior "colleague" and administration. I have since experienced ongoing harassment at several hospitals in which I have worked from the "old boys club", of which the afore mentioned "colleague" is a member, and administrators; this really is bullying and mobbing.

There has never been any questioning of my skills and knowledge, and I believe that this is the product of profession jealousy and fear for their commercial interests.

I am a member of HPARA and have been supported and well advised by the association in my continuing difficulties with this working environment.

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I am a consultant surgeon who joined HPARA when I was a trainee registrar. I was a high achiever at school and university. I decided to study medicine after graduation with a degree in Medicine and Surgery then, after work as a junior medical officer, I enrolled as a trainee registrar in surgery.

My first two years of training were accomplished with excellent supervisor reports to the college. This continued for a time in the third year until I was instructed by the director to review a case in the care of a senior surgeon on staff. I identified a fault in the management of that case and subsequently the supervisor reports were of unsatisfactory performance, never in the clinical areas, but in non-clinical areas.

The case was a patient of my supervisor. I was repeatedly failed in examinations for admission to fellowship of the college and thus qualification to work as a surgeon. The college requested me to show cause as to why I should be permitted to remain on the training program. I contacted HPARA and was provided with a representative to attend the college interview. I was permitted to continue in the program.

I relocated interstate to continue in pursuit of my goal, was failed on a further two occasions and finally successful at my last attempt. This would not have occurred without the support of the senior surgeons at the hospital to which I had moved and their intervention with the college. The advice, representation and subsequent support that I received from HPARA was vital to my achieving success in the examination.

I am now working happily as a staff consultant surgeon.

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I am a mature aged Physician who joined HPARA when I was notified to AHPRA several years ago. I had been accused of several things all of which are untrue. I joined HPARA to seek assistance in my defence of these dishonest accusations. AHPRA has failed to deliver any resolution of the matters contained in the notifications and delayed proceedings. HPARA has assisted me with support and advice for which I am thankful.

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I am a specialist in private practice with visiting rites a major metropolitan hospital. My patient in the hospital had a very difficult problem that required extremely tough decisions to be made. The patient and her husband were fully informed on the two different managements that could be used and opted for the one of their preference for which their signed consent was given in writing. A group of other medical officers, a nurse and a senior administrator on the staff pressured the patient to opt for the alternative management. This was rejected by the patient. The group altered the treatment without my agreement and I corrected that when it became known to me.

There was a sorry consequence of further interference in her management that resulted in a disastrous outcome for the patient and her family which she fortunately survived.

I joined HPARA when the administration officer arranged a sham peer review of the case without any discussion with me and then notified me to AHPRA. The action taken by AHPRA has been to favour the notifier and this has led to a tribunal hearing in which I must defend myself. My medical indemnity insurer has been ineffectual in providing defence for my actions and there is now an investigation into both the actions of the hospital administrator and the process followed by AHPRA by an outside agency.

HPARA has given me excellent advice, guidance and support. Four independent specialists reviewed the case separately and concluded that my management decisions were what they themselves would have followed in such a situation.