Let’s Welcome Our New Doctors, Not Exploit Them

The eight new doctors who have recently joined Alice Springs Hospital will encounter illnesses that they would never see elsewhere, according to Shadow Health Minister Dr Richard Lim, a former full-time Alice Springs medical practitioner.

They would also be given the opportunity to develop unique clinical skills, Dr Lim said.

“I extend my warmest welcome to the new doctors and hope that they not only enjoy their stint here, but also gain from the wide-ranging clinical encounters that they will experience in our region,” he said.

“Practising medicine in Alice Springs, which I was privileged to do full-time from 1981 until I entered politics, allowed me to develop clinical skills and see illnesses that I would never have experienced anywhere else in Australia.

“I am certain these new doctors will also enjoy and benefit from the unique experience that Alice Springs will offer.”

Dr Lim said he was putting the Alice Springs Hospital Management and the Minister for Health on notice that the new doctors should be shown respect and valued for their commitment to Central Australia.

“These doctors should not be exploited,” Dr Lim said.

“The hospital has a track record of dissatisfaction among young doctors, especially those with overseas qualifications or those who have only short-term working visas for Australia.

“Over the last year, Alice Springs Hospital had four young doctors, some of whom had bought their own homes in the Alice, resign from their posts, allegedly because of frustration and dissatisfaction with the way they were treated.

“I want to let the new doctors know that my office has an open-door policy, that they can come to me for assistance if needed.

“I have practised as a doctor in Alice Springs and know what it is like and how tough it can get. I am more than happy to be of any help if they need it.”

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