



1 September 2009

Doctor suspended for unethical conduct

The Health Practitioners Tribunal (the tribunal) late yesterday found former Queensland doctor Naseem Ashraf guilty of improperly and unethically treating a female patient.

Although Mr Ashraf is no longer registered in Queensland, the tribunal recommended stringent conditions be imposed on him for three years should he successfully apply for registration in Queensland again.

Chair of the Board, Dr Mary Cohn, welcomed the tribunal's decision and said it sent a clear message to doctors who examine their patients in an indecent or inappropriate manner.

"If this doctor was still registered in Queensland he would be unable to examine any female patient without a chaperone over the age of 18 being present," Dr Cohn said.

"He would also be required to undertake significant mentoring relating to practice, ethics or boundary violations"

"But patients should also take some responsibility and check the conditions under which their own doctor is registered.

"Doctors who have been disciplined for this type of behaviour may be required to have a chaperone present when treating patients of a particular sex and/or age.

"Other doctors may be strictly prohibited from seeing any patient of a particular sex and/or age.

Members of the public can easily check the registration details of all Queensland doctors by searching the public register available on the Medical Board website at www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au

By simply entering the doctor's surname into the search engine, patients can check their doctor's registration status, qualifications and any conditions or undertakings imposed on their registration.

If you believe your doctor has acted indecently or inappropriately, or is practising outside of their registration conditions, you should telephone the Board's Professional Standards Unit immediately on (07) 3234 0187.

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