

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Australian test to go global following investment by Cambridge University**

#### **Test evaluates English-language competency of overseas-trained medical professionals**

An Australian-developed English language test for health and medical professionals will be delivered globally following an investment by Cambridge English Language Assessment, formerly Cambridge ESOL, a department of the world renowned University of Cambridge in the UK.

The Occupational English Test (OET) is currently used to evaluate the English language competency of overseas-trained health and medical professionals wanting to practice in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. It is a rigorous test that, unlike other tests, uses clinical terminology and simulates a health or medical-related environment.

Cambridge English Language Assessment has purchased a 70 per cent stake in the OET from Box Hill Institute in a strategic alliance aimed at increasing the availability of the test to candidates in the UK, Europe and North America.

Cambridge English Language Assessment is the world's leading provider of language assessment for learners and teachers of English, with nearly four million candidates a year in 130 countries.

Cambridge English Language Assessment CEO, Dr Mike Milanovic said "Our goal is to develop the OET as the leading English-language qualification for health and medical professionals around the world. We anticipate rapid growth in the number of candidates taking the test over the next three years as we work with Box Hill Institute to expand the delivery of the OET beyond Australia and Asia."

The OET was developed by the University of Melbourne in the late 1980s under contract to the Australian Federal Government. It assesses the English language competency of people working in the fields of Dentistry, Dietetics, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Speech Pathology and Veterinary Science.

The test is currently used by the governing bodies of the professions at state and national level in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.

Box Hill Institute CEO, John Maddock said the joint venture was part of an agreement signed by Cambridge ESOL and the institute in March 2012 to advance testing and assessment services in Australia and globally.

"This is a great example of how an Australian developed and delivered qualification can tap a global market. We are delighted to be partnering with Cambridge ESOL so that the OET is made available to health and medical professionals seeking registration and the ability to practice in an English speaking environment."