



HD Detained doctors 'passed reference checks' Brisbane International Airport Gold Coast Hospital Police are continuing to investigate connections between the British plots and a doctor working on the Gold Coast. (File photo) UK police trace terrorism attacks to Gold Coast man Gold Coast doctor questioned over UK terrorism plots AFP officers search hospital for possible terrorism links Doctors involved in UK terrorist plans: BBC Terrorism plots sparked by Palestinian crisis: expert Gold Coast doctor eighth suspect in UK bombings UK police question Iraqi, Jordanian Media Conference: Beattie, Atkinson comment on Brisbane arrest UK police question two Arab doctors over terror plot Gold Coast doctor arrested over UK terror plot

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LP The Queensland Government says both doctors being questioned by police in connection to the bungled British terrorism plots passed stringent medical reference checks.

Authorities in Queensland say the first doctor arrested is Mohamed Haneef, a 27-year-old Indian who has been working as a registrar at the Gold Coast Hospital.

TD The second doctor detained for questioning has not yet been named.
Queensland Premier Peter Beattie says Dr Haneef recruited from Liverpool 10 months ago, after replying to an ad in the .

He has been at the Gold Coast Hospital since last year, when he came to Australia on a 457 temporary skilled worker visa, sponsored by the Queensland Health Department.

Mr Beattie says state medical authorities made the appropriate assessments before employing him.

He says other checks are up to the Federal Government.

"Security checks are done by the Commonwealth as part of the immigration process," he said.
Also, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) denies there has been a failing by Queensland medical authorities.

Queensland president, Dr Ross Carrmill, says it is a responsibility of the federal Immigration Department.

"We believe it's the role of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to assess eligibility for residency visa," he said.

"It's the role of the medical board to assess eligibility to practice medicine."

Dr Carrmill also says today's events should not affect the public's attitude towards overseas doctors.

"There's no justification for the community to take this issue as a universal negativity," he said.
Meanwhile, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Mick Keelty says the second doctor being questioned is simply assisting police with their inquiries.

Commissioner Keelty has told he is assisting police voluntarily.

"The second person has never been the subject of this investigation," he said.

"It's just another person who is assisting us with our inquiries and that person is not being

detained or held in any way shape or form.

"So we wouldn't want to exaggerate the role of that second person for all intents and purposes, he may or may not become a witness."

Australian threat level

The Federal Government says Australia's terrorist alert level is not being increased despite today's arrests.

Prime Minister John Howard says there is no reason to increase Australia's level of alertness.

"There is nothing in what has happened in the United Kingdom, which in and of itself suggests that there is a greater danger of there being any terrorist incident in Australia," he said.

The Federal Opposition has been briefed and the national counter terrorism committee updated.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer says the Commonwealth is not planning to upgrade its security measures in light of the arrest.

But he has told CNN there is a key international measure that can be taken to improve security.

"We are trying to negotiate an agreement with the European Union on the transfer of passenger name records between Australian authorities and European authorities, so that we have here in Australia, and they have in Europe, a better idea of who is on an aircraft flying between our two countries," he said.

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