

My story: By Vishal Sarawat, an Ex student of Aerospace Aviation.

I was a student of flying school known as Aerospace Aviation until 2009. It might be known to many through media how the school was exploiting Indian students but nobody knows how we students were able to get our money back from that dodgy flying school.

When I left aerospace aviation because I was not getting the training for which I had paid, the school did not refund my money as per their own refund policy. I tried everything but with no success. I, with many other students, went to different departments for help to get our money back, but we did not get any assistance. As a result, I was very depressed and disillusioned when I found out that my money would never be returned.

Later, we contacted many Indian community leaders in Sydney but again no one was able to help. Either they did not take any interest or they were unable to help. Through one of the meetings for students, I got in touch with Dr Yadu Singh who took my matter seriously. I told him whatever happened to us students there in the flying school. He was one person who was not just only interested in talking but he was interested in taking action against the school. Like us, he was disgusted with our exploitation. He had empathy for our situation. He was focused in getting results. He was the first person who talked to the Four Corners [ABC] programme and Sydney Morning Herald regarding our problems. By his approach, methods and sincerity, he gave us a ray of hope. It was not just the empty hope but Dr Singh was a person with the plan. He used all his resources to help us get out of this problem. He contacted media, lawyers and politicians. I still remember how he gave his time, talking with us until quite late in his office when our case was dismissed in the court. We talked about what we should do next. Dr Singh was there too when Four Corners interviewed us, even when he was not going to be in that programme. He went with me when I had to seek urgent help from one Indian lawyer, Mr Susai Benjamin, late in the evening [around 11PM] to discuss my case. He also arranged a legal firm from Canberra to provide free legal help/guidance.

He personally contacted VETAB and discussed my case with them. Due to Dr Singh's efforts, moral pressure and sincerity, VETAB started taking my case and other Flying school students' cases more seriously. Things started happening. I was one of those lucky people whose money was refunded by aerospace aviation. I received the refund of \$11333.00 which was what this school was expected to refund. I have no doubt that if Dr Singh was not there, I would have never got my money back. Dr Singh is man full of energy and enthusiasm. This positive energy changed us too and prepared us to fight for our rights.

It was amazing to see a busy doctor working throughout the day and devoting his time in the evening to me and other students for our problems. Sometimes I used to feel guilty that because of me and other students, this person does not even get proper rest after finishing his day at work. His office was always open for me. He had never said no whenever I or other needed help.

I was very lucky not only because Dr Singh provided his help in getting my refund but he was a great help too as a practicing doctor. I was having kidney stone those days and I was suffering from extreme pain. I once called him to advice me for a pain killer but he asked me to visit him. He sensed that I was in serious trouble. I went into his office and he could see through my face what pain I was going through. He organised my admission in a hospital and contacted a Urologist specialist on my behalf. A real serious kidney problem was treated in time. If it was not treated then, I might have damaged my Kidneys.

I often think that it is difficult to believe that any one will ever do this much for anyone. This is just prophetic. He just went out of the way to help us all. I was lucky and always thanks God for making me meet such a great person in such tough times. I don't have words to express my gratitude for the help he had provided. He spent his time and money to seek justice for us with no personal benefit.

Mine has been a great experience. I now realise that it is not only our family members who we seek and get help from. He is not our blood relative but in the process he has become someone who is no less. He is now an elder brother to us. I and my family will always remain indebted to him. He is clearly a role model which we all can follow. His selfless work has opened my eyes to the

fact that we do have some in our community who do help their people without personal benefits or considerations. My experience is that of stress, troubles and struggles, which could have been avoided but it is also about hope and good outcome. It is also about justice which I received in Australia with the help from Dr Yadu Singh. Australia is not a bad country after all!

I have now finished my training as a pilot and have just returned to India to seek a job as a pilot. I have not ruled out returning to Australia at some stage in near future.


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