

Profile: Preeti Charan

I am originally from Fiji Islands and moved to New Zealand in 2002. In Auckland, I joined a private hospital and worked in the General Surgical Ward, which specialised in Colorectal, Hepatobiliary, Upper GI Surgery, Major Head and Neck Surgeries, Minor and Major Abdominal surgeries and I worked there for for 16 years.

I completed my Post Graduate Diploma in Health Science from the University of Auckland. During this time, I was involved in looking after the colorectal patients and did pre-operative consultation, stoma siting and provided post-operative stoma education to patients. I went ahead, completed my Stoma Therapy course through the Australian College of Nursing, and completed my certificate. I joined Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora Waitemata in 2020 and joined the community team as an Ostomy Clinical Nurse specialist. I enjoy the new role as I learn new things everyday, whether it is from the team I work with or the patients I look after.

I was seconded onto the committee of the New Zealand College of Stoma Therapy Nursing in November 2022 and have enjoyed my role as the Co-editor of the *The Outlet*. Stoma therapy nursing is unique and not many people can do what we do. We are a small group of nurses with special knowledge to help our ostomy patients and it would be good to continue to be a team who can share their knowledge and provide support – not only to our patients but to our team of stoma therapy nurses as well.

I am hoping all my experience and knowledge will make a difference to my patients and their quality of life today and in many more days ahead.

