



Top doc jets to US for training

By **BROOKE BASKIN**
health reporter

TOWNSVILLE Hospital's Dr Kurinji Kannan is one of just 70 health educators in the world being offered a spot in a prestigious training program at the US Ivy League institution Harvard University.

A urogynaecology staff specialist, Dr Kannan travelled to Boston in January and jet-sets to Harvard University for the second time on Saturday, to finish the course.

"The program is offered to a chosen group of doctors who are also educators and looks at developing the leadership skills needed not only to be good clinicians but also to be good teachers," she said.

Dr Kannan, a senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology at James Cook University, is responsible for training and mentoring young registrars and fellows at the Townsville Hospital. She is also a surgeon.

"The program offered at Harvard is highly competitive – the first session was intense and

I was very aware of the calibre of people around me," she said.

"I was thrilled to be selected."

Townsville Hospital Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Dr Louis MacPherson said he was delighted but not surprised at Dr Kannan's success.

"Kurinji is an accomplished surgeon and teacher and we are lucky to have her supervising and supporting obstetricians and gynaecologists of the future at our hospital," he said.

Dr Kannan said she was thrilled to be returning to Boston for the second part of the course.

"I love teaching," she said.

"There is no question about it, and being a senior lecturer at JCU helps me to transfer that knowledge, which is really satisfying.

"I want to do an even better job."

Dr Kannan moved to Townsville with her husband and two children, 14 and five, from Perth.



WORLD CLASS ... Dr Kurinji Kannan is taking part in a Harvard course