

INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN IN HEALTH

dr kurinji kannan

OBSTETRICIAN, GYNAECOLOGIST, UROGYNAECOLOGIST | URO-GYNAECOLOGY & WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

It is hard to imagine more humble beginnings for a doctor with the accomplishments of Dr Kannan. Born in a small town in the south of India, Dr Kannan completed her Bachelor of Medicine moved to New Zealand in the nineties where she pursued her lifelong passion for women's health. She went on to become an obstetrician and gynaecologist and served in some of the largest hospitals in the southern hemisphere in Perth, WA and Auckland, New Zealand, delivering thousands of babies. Since settling down in Townsville, Dr Kannan has extended her service to Mater Hospital. Dr Kannan chose to specialise even further to help women who suffer from urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse; conditions which can severely impact their quality of life. However, the mother of two had to undergo further specialty training which brought her to Townsville in 2006. After successful completion, she was conferred with the Urogynaecologist qualification by the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, thus becoming one of only very few women in Australia to gain such accreditation.

Today, Dr Kannan is a well acknowledged Urogynaecologist and a pelvic floor surgeon who performs minimally invasive surgeries to manage urinary incontinence, prolapses and a range of gynaecological conditions common in women. Despite her specialised qualifications, Dr Kannan still loves delivering babies at Mater Hospital. "After all, it is the very reason why I became an Obstetrician in the first place", she reveals with an infectious smile! Despite her clinical commitments, Dr Kannan loves to teach and perform clinical research at the James Cook University medical school. In 2010, she was awarded the prestigious Dr Kohlenberg medal for original research by young O&G fellows in Queensland and New South Wales. Dr Kannan was invited to Harvard Macy's Health Educators program in 2010 and subsequently travelled across United States on a travel fellowship by the Urogynaecological Society of Australasia.

Yet despite her accomplishments, Dr Kannan remains a down to earth and approachable lady next door who at her core, is simply trying to help women in need. "It is very rewarding to be able to put a smile on the face of women who suffer from these conditions and help restore their quality of life," she says, "I get to share their special moments and I do believe that I have a very privileged role." Dr Kannan admits that her professional achievements would not have been possible without the support of her husband, Vijay and their two beautiful children, Harshil and Tejal.

"I love being a mum - after all, it is the best job in the world!" she beams!