

Saju Cherian

Registered Nurse
Duly Authorised Officer
Justice of the Peace



2020
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF THE NURSE AND
THE MIDWIFE

- I am registered nurse and have been working on Ward 21 (Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit) since I graduated from UCOL with a Bachelor of Nursing in 2015. In my first year of practice I completed the Nurse Entry to Specialty Practice (NESP) Programme and achieved a Post Graduate Certificate in Mental Health. I have since taken on further responsibility and also hold the role of Duly Authorised Officer.
- Prior to nursing, my family and I lived in my homeland of India. I used to work in the business sector. I hold a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Materials Management. My first wife, who unfortunately passed away in the first year of my nursing degree, was a registered nurse. She was my inspiration and motivation for wanting to become a nurse. I felt I had a "calling" to work in this profession, to work with the body and mind.
- I faced many challenges during my training. My life had changed after I lost my wife. I became a single father. I continued to work part time while I studied as I was not entitled to a student loan or allowance. Throughout, I held fast to my dream. My mind set of "never give up, you will get there" kept me going. I try and share this philosophy with those I work with, including tangata whaiora on their journey of recovery and their whānau.
- I am very involved with my church and the South Indian community. I do a lot of work with the migrant communities, helping them to settle in and providing them with support and advocacy. This led to me becoming a Justice of the Peace and enabled me to also provide that higher level of assistance at times when it was needed.
- Working with people in this privileged way and at a time when it is most needed, reinforces my decision to be a nurse in the mental health and addiction service.

