



# RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services Nurse Practitioner Intern Profiles



Primary Care Nurse Practitioners are advanced practice nurses who are taught to deliver preventive care and to diagnose and treat patients for common illnesses. They are considered a backbone of the primary care workforce in many countries including the US, Canada, Australia and others. In March 2018, 12 senior RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services (RMI MOHHS) nurses completed Fiji National University (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Nurse Practitioner Training Program held at Majuro Hospital. This was a full-time, 18-month academic program leading to a post-graduate diploma in advanced practice nursing (primary care). The program was a partnership between the RMI MOHHS, FNU, and the Pacific Islands Health Officers' Association (PIHOA). The graduates have now entered a 12 month clinical internship, where they are receiving intensive hands-on primary care experience at Majuro Hospital. Dr. Aina Garstang of the medical staff of MOHHS is the Internship Coordinator and is overseeing instruction of the interns with the help of the MOHHS medical staff and volunteer medical tutors sponsored by PIHOA. The public will see a lot of the nurse practitioner interns and their preceptors as they proceed through internships. Below are the profiles of the intern class.

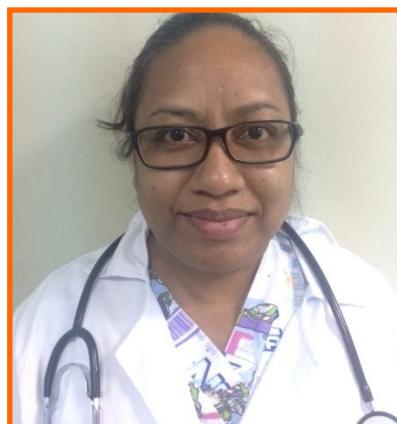


**Education:**  
1991- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
27 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Majuro  
Family from Aitutaki, Mejit

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
To have more interaction with the community and to make a difference in the community's life style.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
Nijma Joseph Lanwi and Hillia Lanwi (Parents, now passed away) and two disabled sisters- In caring for them as they faced their health problems, I developed my interest to pursue a career in health service.



**Education:**  
2010- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
8 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Majuro  
Family from Jaluit, Namu

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
To make change and contribute to my nation and to be a strong advocate for patients.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
My parents, Disve A. and Sorry Riklon, who have been great role models and supporters for me.

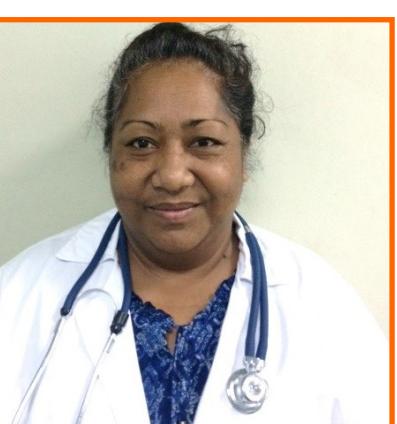


**Education:**  
2006- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
12 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Wotje Atoll  
Family from Wotje, Aituk Atolls

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
To help the people of the Marshall Islands and Wotje Atoll in particular to better health. I want to strengthen primary care and prevent people from needing to be put in the hospital.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
Ali Take, RMI MOHHS Midwife and Nursing Supervisor- Convinced me to join the NP Program as a way to make a difference for my people.



**Education:**  
1992- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2004- Fiji School of Nursing- Post-Graduate Midwifery Certificate  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
25 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Pohnpei, FSM  
Family from Pohnpei, Ebon, Likiep Atolls

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
To bridge the gap in most of the health services here in the RMI; the chance to make a difference with a focus on the community/family and not only on a single person for prevention & health promotion.

**Persons who have had a major influence on my career:**  
My parents, Richard Fred and Honey Fred who I cared for through serious illnesses. I couldn't do much for them and they inspired me to learn more. My husband, Johnny Silk, my children and my other family for their patience, support and sacrifices during my training.



**Education:**  
1993- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
24 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Majuro Atoll  
Family from Ebon and Aelonglaplap

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
To improve primary health care in the Marshall Islands

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
Arnold Schwarzenegger, with his rules for success in life:  
1) Trust yourself, 2) Don't be afraid to fail, 3) Work like hell, 4) Break some rules, 5) Give something back

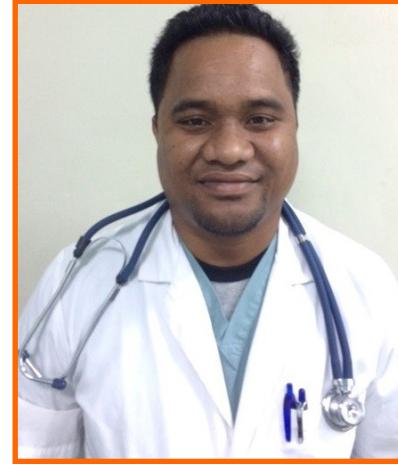


**Education:**  
2000- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2012- Univ of Maine, Fort Kent (BSN Degree)  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
17 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Jaluit Atoll  
Family from Jaluit Atoll

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
I always want to gain new skills and knowledge. I've noticed the shortage of medical care providers at MOHHS.

**Persons who have had a major influence on my career:**  
Drs Garstang and Madisson- watching them in NCD Clinic inspired me to help with that kind of work.



**Education:**  
2011- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
7 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Jaluit Atoll  
Family from Ailinglaplap Atoll

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
I want to make change in the health system and for peoples' health. I love to help sick people become better.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
My father, Minus Mejbon, worked as a Health Assistant in Jaluit. He was my biggest influence.



**Education:**  
2006- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
11 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Woja Majuro  
Family from Majuro, Aelonlaplap Atolls

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
To gain the knowledge and skills needed to help educate & provide quality service to people who need help in caring for their health.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
Medex Henty Emil, of Laura Clinic, who encouraged my further study to prepare to care for the people in Laura, Woja and Adjeltake in the future.



**Education:**  
2010- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
14 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Ebeye  
Family from Kwajalein, Aituk, Ebon, Aelonlaplap, Jaluit

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
There is a shortage of Marshallese medical providers serving the country. With outside doctors, the language barrier is a big problem. If patients and families fully understand their illnesses and what should be done they will do much better. I also want to be a role model to my local people.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
My patients have been a big influence. A lot of them have suffered from simple disease that could be cured and families have suffered and lost their loved ones.



**Education:**  
1994- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2010- Univ of Guam- BS Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
20 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Ebeye  
Family from Kibinmeto Atolls and other Ralik & Ratak Atolls

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
I've had a dream to become a medical officer since childhood. The NP program allowed the dream to become a reality. Now I can better serve my people.

**Persons who have had a major influence on my career:**  
Dr Kennar Briand, for his critical thinking approach to patient care, for his long service to the country, and for his spirituality. My family for their patience and sacrifices for me.



**Education:**  
2005- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
13 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Enewetak  
Family from Enewetak

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
There is a shortage of medical personnel – we will be seeing patients so this will help others in the Ministry of Health who are attending to patients.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
Dr Ali Kidmas was a surgeon who worked at MOHHS a few years ago. He encouraged me to find new opportunities to advance my skills.



**Education:**  
1991- College of the Marshall Islands, Nursing  
2018- Fiji National Univ. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Diploma

**Background:**  
26 years working for Ministry of Health and Human Services  
Grew up in Aelonlaplap  
Family from Jabat, Aelonlaplap, Namdrik, Arno Atolls

**Decided to become a Nurse Practitioner because:**  
By becoming a Nurse Practitioner I can do more to help the people, especially the sick.

**Person who has had a major influence on my career:**  
My father, Rena Rang - he taught me that nothing is impossible to accomplish.