

Induction of Paris Purnell as an
Honourary Member of the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses
at the AASTN Annual General Meeting, Melbourne, Australia. 30th April 2025.

Paris Purnell has been awarded honorary membership of the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) for his contribution to stomal therapy nursing and education within Australia and internationally. Honorary membership is a recognition bestowed by the AASTN to individuals for their exceptional achievements and contribution to stomal therapy and signifies distinction and prestige within the stomal therapy nursing community. Paris is the second person to receive honorary membership of the AASTN in 32 years.



Congratulatory flowers from AASTN 2025

Paris Purnell is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic educator and a passionate advocate for stomal therapy nursing. He is committed to advancing stomal therapy nursing education and optimising the health outcomes of people with ostomies, both in Australia and internationally. He generously shares his resources and extensive knowledge and always encourages others to succeed. He is recognised internationally as a kind, deep thinking and inspiring educator who approaches his role with genuine curiosity and respect. This has led to understanding, collaborations and the sharing of knowledge and development of innovative programs to improve clinician knowledge across multiple cultures and languages around the globe. Paris is well deserving of a AASTN honorary membership.

Paris graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1987. He undertook stomal therapy nursing training at Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital in 1991. He worked as a Colorectal Nurse Specialist at St Vincent's from 1988-1996, relieving as a stomal therapy nurse during that time. In 1997 he moved from nursing at St Vincent's to working in the stomal therapy industry, then moved into an educator role in 2005. Paris has educated across more than 19 countries on all continents (except Antarctica - yet) and always proudly promotes Australian stomal therapy nursing. He has published at least 13 journal articles and has presented at more than 40 national and international conferences. Additionally, he has helped countless clinicians share their knowledge and skills by encouraging and

assisting them to present, locally and beyond, at meetings, on expert panels and at conferences; to publish case studies, consensus papers, journal articles and more.

From novices to experts, so many clinicians have a story to tell of how Paris has helped them personally, professionally and academically. 'He pointed me towards the best articles', 'he helped me write my case study', 'he encouraged me to publish my Masters', 'he listened to me when I was feeling frustrated', 'he explained things in a language I could understand'. His name is synonymous with integrity, striving for excellence and always generosity. He quietly offers his support, his time and his talents in research, teaching, academic writing and leadership to ensure stomal therapy nurses and people with ostomies alike are valued and supported. He is always approachable and strives to advance stomal therapy nursing as an evidence-based specialty where science connects with the art of nursing.

Paris is an exemplary example of someone who has dedicated their career to the optimisation of the health outcomes of people with ostomies by improving clinicians' knowledge. Congratulations Paris.

