

Dr Anna Wojtacha



I graduated from the Medical Science University in Poznan, Poland, completing training in Infectious and Tropical Diseases. After working in a missionary hospital in Angola, Africa, for two and half years, I moved to New Zealand in 2006 and sat the required English exam, USMLE step 1 and 2. I did an observership in Porirua Hospital, which helped me pass the NZREX exam. In 2007 I joined the International Medical Graduate Ready for Work programme in Auckland City Hospital and it was the best thing that happened to me in New Zealand. It was a programme designed for overseas doctors to help them to transfer into the New Zealand health system, and it was a perfectly designed to help me adjust to a very different system to the one back in Poland.

I continued my training as a House Officer and then as a Basic Trainee in medicine at Auckland City Hospital. I passed the FRACP written and clinical exams while pregnant and was then accepted to Advanced Training in Oncology. Three years later I finished my training and received a position as an Oncologist in Nelson Hospital.

It has been 10 years since I came to New Zealand. It has been a very long and challenging road that ended at the most beautiful place in Nelson, where I am working in my dream specialty surrounded by the kindest people. Looking back I can say that it was sometimes a very difficult process. Prior to coming here I was a consultant and I had to start the journey from the very bottom working as a caregiver in the private hospital in order to get working visa. But on the way I have met amazing people whose help and kindness along with my huge determination let me find a piece of paradise in the world.