

Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM

Lawyer and Resident Medical Officer, Gold Coast University Hospital

Dinesh was the first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland, and the second person to graduate medical school with quadriplegia in Australia. He earned a Bachelor of Laws, prior to completing his Doctor of Medicine at Griffith University. He completed an Advanced Clerkship in Radiology at Harvard University.

As a result of his injury and experiences, Dinesh has been an advocate for inclusivity in medicine and the workplace generally. He is a founding member of Doctors with Disabilities Australia.

Dinesh is currently a resident medical officer at the Gold Coast University Hospital. He is a lecturer at Griffith University and adjunct research fellow at the Menzies Health Institute of Queensland. He has research interests in spinal cord injury.

He is the Gold Coast University Hospital's representative in the Australian Medical Association Queensland's Council of Doctors in Training. He is a doctor for the Gold Coast Titans physical disability rugby team.

Dinesh was the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's Junior Doctor of the Year in 2018. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2019. He was the third Australian to be awarded a Henry Viscardi Achievement Award. Dinesh was the Queensland Australian of the Year for 2021.