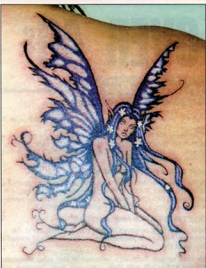


## Mark of fashion etched forever



Tattoos for men or women, by Arora in Carisbrooke.  
CONTRIBUTED



**TATTOOS** and body piercings are a highly personal way of enhancing your looks.

All reputable studios will encourage people to think hard before having something done — particularly tattoos, because of their permanent nature.

Arora in Carisbrooke is run by tattoo artist Lisa Forde and her husband, Danny, who specializes in body piercings above the waist.

This experienced pair, who have been on the island four years, have built their business largely on recommendation by word of mouth.

Their studio is by appointment only and they always spend time talking to their clients to ascertain exactly what is required.

Lisa said: "We would rather turn people away than try to do something for them if they are not sure of what they want."

"It is really important to us that our clients get something they are really happy with."

Lisa creates her own designs and also does cosmetic and reconstructive tattooing, including adding extra definition to eyelashes and eyebrows for those who have thin hair, or using her tattooing skills to recreate a nipple for women who have had a mastectomy.

Neither tattooing nor body piercing are regulated by a governing body, so standards can vary.

Lisa said people choosing a studio must look for a licence from the local health authority, which should be displayed prominently on the premises.

Sterilisation and scrupulous hygiene are important and the tattooist or piercer should put the client at ease and answer any queries they have. If they can't, Lisa believes it is better for the client to politely leave.

By Kate Young



Delicate seahorse tattoo by Arora. CONTRIBUTED

At Arora, Lisa and Danny use disposable equipment to ensure there is no risk of cross-contamination, while Danny only uses top-quality body jewellery from Wildcat, which is less likely to cause problems than cheaper metal.

Anyone who wishes to have a tattoo must be 16 or 18, while Danny discourages those under 16 from having body piercings.

If a minor wants a piercing, they must be accompanied by one parent but have the consent of both parents, before Danny will consider the task.

Afterscare is extremely important and Danny and Lisa include afterscare in their prices.

### Changed your mind?

*If you do have a tattoo you no longer want, Arora has recently added e-razer, a non-laser tattoo removal system.*

*Developed in the USA, e-razer involves injecting a specially formulated cream that bonds with the original tattoo ink and draws it to the skin surface, where it will form a crust that will peel away, taking the unwanted ink with it.*

*Generally, most tattoos can be removed in three to four treatments, although each tattoo is unique and some respond better than others.*