

# ***CHARTER OF OSTOMATES RIGHTS***

*Issued by the International Ostomy Association (IOA) Coordination Committee in June 1993*

*It is the declared object of the IOA that all ostomates shall have the right to a satisfactory quality of life after their surgery and that this CHARTER shall be realised in all countries of the world.*

*Ostomates also have the right to:*

- ★ receive preoperative counselling to ensure that they are fully aware of the benefits of the operation and the essential facts about living with a stoma*
- ★ have a well constructed stoma placed at an appropriate site, and with full and proper consideration to the comfort of the patient*
- ★ receive experienced and professional medical support and stoma nursing care in the pre operative and post operative period, both in hospital and in their community*
- ★ receive full and impartial information about all relevant supplies and products available in their country*
- ★ have the opportunity to choose from the available variety of ostomy management products without prejudice or constraint*
- ★ be given information about their national ostomy association, and the services and support which can be provided*
- ★ receive support and information for the benefit of their family, personal carers, and friends to increase their understanding of the conditions and adjustments which are necessary for achieving a satisfactory standard of life with a stoma.*