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**ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE**

The Wuchopperen Health Service, based in Cairns, has taken out the prestigious National Award for excellence in governance at a gala Awards ceremony held in Melbourne last week.

The *Indigenous Governance Awards* is sponsored by partners Reconciliation Australia and global resources company, BHP Billiton.

From Cairns, Chairperson Ms Rachael Wargent said “she was delighted that the Board and Staff of Wuchopperen have been recognised for their efforts to build an effective health service, based on principles of community control and good governance”. She also acknowledged the other seven finalists, including the neighbouring community of Yarrabah who were amongst the outstanding field of finalists.

Joy Savage the CEO said Australians often only hear about negatives. Success stories are often confined to sport and the arts. It is important that the broader community hear about success in all fields of endeavour, including governance and management of Indigenous organisations.

These Indigenous Governance Awards contribute to reconciliation. They invite all sectors in the Australian community to share in a spirit of success and hope. We all have an opportunity to make a difference and close the gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

These Awards, in their second year, clearly shows that success can and is being achieved when Indigenous communities are supported in making their dreams become a reality.

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