



MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

During NAIDOC week this year, Ms Eslyn Wargent, veteran Aboriginal Health Worker, will rack up 25 years of service to the Wuchopperen Health Service, in Cairns, Qld.

Eslyn began her career at Townsville General Hospital, the same year as the 1967 Referendum.

Eslyn first began working for Wuchopperen in 1979 and was part of the investigative team established to survey the health needs of the Cairns Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Whilst the organisation itself celebrates its 27th Anniversary this year Eslyn who spent a couple of years seconded to Mookai-Rosie Bi Bayan and Qld Health defies career trends staying with the same employer for a quarter of century.

Eslyn now 55 has been part of, and has witnessed, tremendous growth of Wuchopperen over these years. She began as a Senior Aboriginal Health Worker working in a team of seven people and now works with a multi-disciplinary team of more than 90.

The CEO, Joy Savage, said she congratulated Eslyn on her longevity within the organisation. "I know from experience that Eslyn is a walking, talking data-base. When we needed to locate a patient for follow-up, there'd be little need to reference our information system, as Eslyn would always know where to find people, even if they had moved several times, as in many months".

Eslyn has become a familiar face at Wuchopperen. She has seen many changes, including the complete conversion from paper based records to electronic. Despite her maturity, Eslyn was hugely supportive of the significant change in work practice and service design.

If you would like to interview or discuss this media release further you may contact:

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