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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **TOP NURSING AWARD FOR PAM MUSZKIETA**

Wimmera Health Care Group's Nursing Operations Manager is the latest recipient of the State Government's Improving Outcomes in Aboriginal Health award.

Pam Muszkeita was presented with the prestigious award, during a State Nursing and Midwifery Excellence awards ceremony hosted by the Minister for Health and the Minister for Aged Care in Melbourne last night.

Pam's role as delegate for the Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start partnership has seen her work closely with local indigenous women, developing their leadership skills and assisting them to access mainstream health promotion and community development opportunities.

Director of Clinical Services, Don McRae, said that he was proud of Pam's achievements. "Wimmera Health Care Group is the fundholder and facilitating partner for the Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start partnership. Pam has been involved with the partnership for several years and has made a significant contribution during that time. She is a very worthy recipient of this award" he said.

The Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Project is a partnership between Wimmera Health Care Group, Horsham Rural City Council, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Wimmera Primary Care Partnership, Horsham North Primary School, Wimmera Uniting Care, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative, Budja Budja Aboriginal Co-operative, Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, Delkaia Indigenous Reference Group, Department of Human Services and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The project's aims are to improve the health, development, learning and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from conception to eight years through prevention and early intervention initiatives.

The Delkaia Aboriginal Best Start Project has had many achievements including: 'The Welcome Baby to Country Ceremony' which has gained state-wide recognition through an Early Years Award, the successful 'Gap Gap Dyirr Family Camp', community engagement with the changing themes of the

'Delkaia Family Fun Days' and the launch of the 'Teeth for Keeps Poster' and 'Indigenous Child Record Insert'.

Earlier this year, the Victorian State Government announced an extension of funding to this important project.



Pam Muszkeita with the Hon Daniel Andrews, MP, Minister for Health, at the State Nursing and Midwifery Excellence awards ceremony on Wednesday night

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Don McRae  
Director of Clinical Services  
Ph. 5381 9251