

27 August 2016

### **Director of Aboriginal Health honoured at 2016 Gladys Elphick Awards**

The Women's and Children's Health Network is delighted to announce that its Director of Aboriginal Health, Jackie Ah Kit, has been awarded the Shirley Peisley Award at this year's Gladys Elphick Awards ceremony held on 26 August 2016.

The Shirley Peisley Award acknowledges the contribution of an Aboriginal woman to positive change in the workforce for Aboriginal people. The award honours Shirley Peisley AM, a leading South Australian campaigner for Aboriginal welfare and cultural and legal rights since the 1960s.

The annual Gladys Elphick awards are named after Kaurna-Narungga Elder, Gladys Elphick MBE, a community leader and the first President of the Council of Aboriginal Women of South Australia (1964–1973). They acknowledge the significant contribution of Aboriginal women in all areas of South Australian life.

Jackie Ah Kit has been an influential leader in the Aboriginal health sector for many years, having been CEO of Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service and held senior roles with Country Health SA and Northern Territory Health before joining the Women's and Children's Health Network in 2012.

Within our Network, Jackie has provided crucial advocacy at the Executive level.

Her many achievements include:

- Strengthening the Aboriginal Health governance structure by building the Senior Aboriginal Leadership Group and restructuring the Aboriginal Health Steering Committee
- Embedding the Aboriginal Family Birthing Program within the Women's and Children's Health Network
- Ensuring that Aboriginal cultural context statements are included in the State's Perinatal Practice Guidelines
- Initiating the Aboriginal workforce subcommittee
- Providing support and advocacy for Closing the Gap funded programs
- Strengthening partnerships with research bodies including the Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit at the South Australian Medical Research Institute, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

The Women's and Children's Health Network celebrates Jackie's achievements and the well-deserved acknowledgment she has received for her contribution to Aboriginal people in South Australia.

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