

The Benevolent Society welcomes the Australian Labor Party’s promise to introduce the Pensioner Dental Plan if elected, and calls on Scott Morrison to match the plan to demonstrate his Party’s commitment to older Australians.

“Bill Shorten’s announcement of up to \$1,000 worth of dental services every two years for people in receipt of the Age Pension and Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card holders is a huge step towards the ultimate goal of universal affordable dental care as part of the Medicare system, and it is in line with the plan we’ve put forward through The Benevolent Society’s long-term Fix Pension Poverty campaign.” said Kirsty Nowlan

“But the election is still to be decided and we’ve learnt that major reforms like this don’t stick without cross-party support. **Scott Morrison, our call to you is to back the Pensioner Dental Scheme and show your Party’s credentials in caring for older Australians.**”

“The Benevolent Society, with our partners National Seniors, have been working hard for this through the Fix Pension Poverty campaign. We’d like to thank our activists and supporters around the country and especially in areas like Central Queensland, Northern NSW and in Adelaide.

“We’d also like to acknowledge the work of Rebekha Sharkie MP in Parliament and campaigning for affordable dental care for older Australians. Her advocacy really shifted the dial on this.”

The Fix Pension Poverty campaign will continue to push for cross-partisanship on access to affordable dental care for older Australians, and for the introduction of the three other policies to address poverty amongst older Australians:

- [Increase Rent Assistance for people on the Age Pension who are struggling to afford private rents](#)
- [Keeping people on the Age Pension connected to communications as more essential services are transferred online and the National Broadband Network increases costs](#)
- Introducing an independent Age Pension tribunal to set the rate of the Age Pensions

For more information, visit www.fixpensionpoverty.org.au

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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About The Benevolent Society - The Benevolent Society is Australia’s first charity, working as a catalyst for social justice and change for over 200 years. Founded in 1813, The Benevolent Society advocates for a better life for all Australians, and provides in-home services for older Australians, and people with disability, as well as providing programs in Family support and early intervention. For more information, please visit www.benevolent.org.au, on Facebook/thebenevolentsociety or on Twitter - @BenevolentAU

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