



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Friday 10 May 2024

### **Please find below a statement by Henrietta Foulds, Director of Operations (Child Youth & Family), The Benevolent Society on the Dalwood Spilstead Service.**

“The Benevolent Society is committed to ensuring that existing families engaged in the Family Preservation program (Dalwood Spilstead) across Northern Sydney are well supported with any transition between services, as well as supporting any new clients referred to the program. We want to assure families and members of the community that The Benevolent Society will continue to provide Family Preservation services to eligible families in Northern Sydney.”

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- [The Benevolent Society](#) (Benevolent) and Northern Sydney Local Health District NSLHD (Dalwood Spilstead Service) have delivered Family Preservation services to families in the Northern Beaches and Lower North Shore areas under a partnership agreement for more than a decade.
- The Family Preservation program is funded by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and we are the lead agency in this partnership.
- Benevolent and NSLHD have been in discussion about the service partnership over the last 18 months in preparation for DCJ’s recommissioning process of Family Preservation services across NSW. We made a mutual decision in December 2022 that this existing partnership will conclude at the end of June 2024, with Benevolent responsible for providing Family Preservation services across all of Northern Sydney thereafter. A transition plan has been ongoing for 12 months.
- To ensure continuity of care, families already enrolled in the NSLHD Family Preservation program will be able to remain with the Dalwood Spilstead Service to complete their 18-month program where appropriate.
- It is important to note that the NSLHD Dalwood Spilstead service will continue to operate and provide services across Northern Sydney.
- [The Benevolent Society](#) is one of Australia’s most respected not-for-profit child and family services providers, first incorporated as a charity over 200 years ago. We have extensive experience as a Family Preservation provider and have been delivering family preservation programs across multiple locations in rural and regional NSW and across Greater Sydney for over 20 years.

**---ENDS---**

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

E: [Elizabeth.Johnson@benevolent.org.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Johnson@benevolent.org.au) | [Adam.Facer@benevolent.org.au](mailto:Adam.Facer@benevolent.org.au)