

MEDIA RELEASE 10 November 2023

The Benevolent Society opens new Wollongong office

<u>The Benevolent Society</u> celebrated the opening of its new relocated Wollongong office with an official event on November 9, continuing its commitment to support people with disability and carers in the Illawarra region.

The Benevolent Society's office has relocated from the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus – which opened in 2018 – to its new premises on Level 3, Suite 4, 3 Rawson Street, Wollongong.

Staff from The Benevolent Society – including Michael Woodhouse, Executive Director Disability, Ageing & Carers and Gabrielle Boyd, Manager, Disability Operations Central and Southern NSW joined other local area stakeholders and service providers for an afternoon tea.

The Benevolent Society provides uniquely tailored disability supports and programs to people with disabilities of all ages. This includes occupational therapy, speech pathology, physiotherapy, positive behaviour support, psychology services and NDIS Support Coordination.

It also deliver services as part of <u>Carer Gateway</u>, an Australian Government program providing free services and support for carers including tailored support packages, in-person and phone counselling, peer support groups and emergency respite.

"Our growing team in the Illawarra area and our new office space in Wollongong will provide local residents with greater access to a range of therapeutic services to support people with disability to live their best life," Michael Woodhouse said. "We're also providing access to services and supports specifically for carers through Carer Gateway. We encourage everyone in the community to find out more about our services and programs which empower our clients to live life on their own terms."

The Benevolent Society is a charitable organisation that has been supporting children, families, and communities for more than 200 years. The new centre currently has about 23 staff with <u>recruitment</u> continuing for local Allied Health Professionals to join the growing team. Located in the heart of the CDB, the premises will provide inclusive therapy spaces and counselling rooms.

The majority of our clinical health and disability services can be funded through the National Insurance Disability Scheme (NDIS) or the Disability Support for Older Australians (DSOA) Program. We also offer privately funded payment options. Services can be provided in-office, at home or via telehealth – wherever the client prefers to receive assistance.

The Benevolent Society's new office is located on Level 3, Suite 4, 3 Rawson Street, Wollongong.



To find out more about how The Benevolent Society can help you, call our Support Centre on 1800 236 762 or visit <u>benevolent.org.au</u>

---ENDS---

Media contact: Elizabeth Johnson: 0403 064 811 elizabeth.johnson@benevolent.org.au

About The Benevolent Society

The Benevolent Society, operating since 1813, provides integrated support services to children, young people and families, older Australians, people with disability and carers. It has more than 1,000 people-first practitioners working to help people live their life, their way. As one of Australia's first charitable organisations, The Benevolent Society has pioneered positive social change and uses its practice wisdom to advocate for a just, caring society. Visit <u>benevolent.org.au</u> for more information.