

## **MEDIA ALERT**

**November 11 2019**

# **The Benevolent Society to Mark Anniversary of the Queensland Government's Apology for Forced Adoption Policies and Practices**

The seventh anniversary of the Queensland Government's Apology for Forced Adoption Policies and Practices will be marked on Wednesday 27 November 2019, with a special ceremony and morning tea event from 9.30am-11.15am (AEST) at the Forced Adoption Apology Memorial Site, City View Saddle, **Roma St Parklands: 1 Parklands Blvd, Brisbane.**

The event will include a commemorative laying of roses at the Apology for Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Memorial Plaque, with morning tea and speeches by a number of guests including:

- **Dr Patricia Fronek**, Senior Lecturer, School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University
- **Megan Giles**, Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Legislation, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women in the Queensland Government
- Reunited mother and son, Lesley Mitchell and Shane Bouel

The event is an initiative of the Queensland Post Adoption Working Committee, comprising [The Benevolent Society's Post Adoption Support Queensland](#) (PASQ), [Association for Adoptees Inc](#), [Jigsaw Queensland](#), [Origins Queensland](#) and [Adoption Services Queensland](#).

The Australian Institute of Family Studies reports one in 15 Australians are affected by the past practices of closed adoption.

"We know that many past adoption policies and practices continue to impact people's lives today," said Katharine McLean, The Benevolent Society's Team Leader of Child and Family Services Brisbane North.

"Acknowledging these mothers, fathers, adopted people, adoptive parents and other family members is important. Our event offers them an opportunity to commemorate the State Government Apology and continue their journey towards wholeness and healing."

Those wishing to attend the event can RSVP by calling 07-3170-4600 or emailing [PASQ@benevolent.org.au](mailto:PASQ@benevolent.org.au).

**\*\*\* MEDIA INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Wednesday 27 November 2019, 9.30am-11.15am

**WHERE:** The Forced Adoption Apology Memorial Site at City View Saddle, **Roma St Parklands 1 Parklands Blvd, Brisbane City**

**FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:**

Jon Abbott: 0413-995-189 or [jon.abbott@benevolent.org.au](mailto:jon.abbott@benevolent.org.au)

Lisa Hresc: 0421-761-332 or [lisa.hresc@benevolent.org.au](mailto:lisa.hresc@benevolent.org.au)

**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](http://www.benevolent.org.au), on Facebook/thebenevolentsociety or on Twitter - @BenevolentAU