

MEDIA ALERT
3 February 2023

Official opening of new centre in Elizabeth Vale to offer more support to people with disability

The Benevolent Society, a charitable organisation that has been supporting children, families and communities for more than 200 years, will provide more disability services in northern Adelaide with the opening of a new centre in Elizabeth Vale – **official opening event with The Benevolent Society’s CEO Lin Hatfield Dodds, Mayor Glen Docherty – City of Playford, staff and clients occurring Monday 6 February.**

There has been a significant increase in people needing disability services in the northern Adelaide area. The Benevolent Society has responded by relocating from its Salisbury site to offer a larger and more accessible centre in Elizabeth Vale.

The new centre will have 20 staff providing services to more than 250 clients. Located adjacent to Lyell McEwin Hospital, the premises will provide purpose-built treatment spaces, a fully equipped therapy kitchen, and large multipurpose rooms for more group-based therapy programs.

The Benevolent Society provides allied health therapy and behaviour support services to people with disabilities at all ages. This includes assisting children with complex communication needs; developing social and motor skills to meet their everyday living and community participation needs; developing plans to help manage challenging behaviour; assisting people with disability to coordinate accessing supports under their NDIS plans; and occupational and music therapies to address the physical, emotional, cognitive and social needs of people.

The organisation’s South Australia team run unique group programs, including School Readiness Programs, the LAB program and Social Skill Development programs. These programs have been designed to develop emotional, social and technology skills of children and adolescents on the Autism Spectrum to achieve their individual goals in a supportive group setting.

The Benevolent Society is committed to investing further into the northern Adelaide community and has longer terms plans to expand on its service offerings there.

OPENING EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Monday 6 February

Time: opening ceremony commences at **11am**

Where: 44 John Rice Avenue, Elizabeth Vale, SA 5112

In attendance: Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO, The Benevolent Society; Mayor Glen Docherty – City of Playford; The Benevolent Society staff and clients

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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.