

MEDIA RELEASE

The Benevolent Society and NSW government continue partnership to keep families together safely

#Keeping families together

13 November 2018 – The Benevolent Society, Australia’s first charity, is the first organisation in Australia to negotiate a pay-by-results model following a successful Social Benefit Bond.

Last month, the Benevolent Society’s Social Benefit Bond was the first social benefit bond, also called a social impact bond, in Australia to mature. Under the bond, private investors supported a pilot program, **Resilient Families**, which is an intensive family support program that keeps families together and prevents children from being unnecessarily removed and entering into foster care. Under the pilot, Resilient Families delivered excellent results - 32 per cent fewer children in the program entered out-of-home care than those of a matched control group. Resilient Families was able to keep 86 per cent of families together- making it among the strongest performing intensive family preservation services in the world.

Following these outstanding results, today Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Secretary of the New South Wales Department of Family and Community (FACS) Service announced that FACS would support Resilient Families for further two years until June 2020.

This is the first time in Australia that a pilot program was developed and tested through a bond that will continue beyond the life of the initial investment. The NSW Government and the Benevolent Society will together continue Resilient Families through an innovative new payment-by-results model, together building on its incredible impact into the future. Through this model we will share the risk and accountability with Government of the programs ongoing success. This means The Benevolent Society will need to achieve agreed performance targets to be paid in full by the NSW Government for delivering the services.

“**Resilient Families** is consistent with world’s best practice in the area of intensive family preservation services. The Benevolent Society is pleased to continue working with NSW Government on this important initiative. The Benevolent Society has a long history of supporting innovation and social change - and we are proud to add to that legacy with both the bond and the new payment by results model” explained Matt Gardiner, Executive Director, Child and Family Services, the Benevolent Society.

The NSW Government rather than private investors will fund the second phase of Resilient Families. It will support at least 120 families. The success of the second phase of Resilient Families will be measured against a single outcome - the number of children that remain safely at home with their families - which is a simpler performance measurement framework than the framework used under the bond.

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FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES – INCLUDING INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES – PLEASE CONTACT:

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About The Benevolent Society - 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. We help people age well and live their best lives, staying in their homes wherever possible. For more information, please visit benevolent.org.au, on Facebook/thebenevolentsociety or on Twitter - @BenevolentAU