

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**23 August 2023**

**Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO, The Benevolent Society on the anticipated inclusions in the Federal Treasury's Intergenerational Report**

“There is an urgent need to prepare the care and support sector for the huge increase in demand for services over the next 40 years. We are far off where we need to be. We must get the right settings in place so this sector can provide increased, improved and more reliable services to Australians.

Anyone who has followed the recent Royal Commissions into aged care and disability knows that too many people fall through the cracks of systems that are overworked, underfunded, and overdue for structural reform.

Productivity growth in the care and support economy will be essential. Productivity gains will be found in the development of labour saving technologies, through assistive technology and innovations in business management technology. And as reliable innovations emerge, they need to be shared at scale for the benefit of care recipients, providers and funders.

Providers need the ability and resources to scale-up their services. We need a workforce that is paid decently and knows it is valued – it's essential to providing quality services.

Currently, the care and support sector struggles to attract and retain sufficient workers to meet the needs of people receiving support services through the NDIS, aged care and early childhood education and care systems. A report by the former National Skills Commission predicted that based on increasing demand driven by demographics, the care economy will progressively need more and more workers, and if nothing is done there will be a shortfall of 100,000 full-time equivalent positions within 5 years.

Early indications are that the Federal Treasury's Intergenerational Report will reinforce how essential the care and support economy is to Australia, and the changes that will be needed to accommodate the very large number of people who will be eligible for care services in future, as the baby boomers age past 65.

Elevating the needs of the care and support economy – which are the needs of Australians – is a national priority. The Benevolent Society welcomes the Government's focus on these urgent issues and looks forward to continuing to work in partnership on them.”

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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.