

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 October 2022



Statement from Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO, The Benevolent Society, in response to the Federal Government's 2022/23 budget. The Benevolent Society is one of Australia's first charities.

“The Federal Government’s commitment to providing \$560 million over four years to help the community services sector continue to maintain existing services for the most vulnerable in our community is a much-needed gesture of good faith. We hope this marks the beginning of an ongoing financial reset for the sector, with more funding commitments in the next federal budget.

Supporting the rising needs of vulnerable families and communities across Australia experiencing financial distress has put our under-funded sector under serious pressure – this budget provides us with confidence that this government is prioritising and responding to this critical issue.

Education is a critical pathway out of poverty and we are pleased to see that discussions at the Job Summit have translated into action, especially the \$922 million to increase vocational skills funding to address workforce gaps. It is also encouraging to see the Government’s commitment to target education investment towards supporting First Nations, diverse and other under-represented people groups complete tertiary studies.

The Benevolent Society also welcomes the budget’s strong focus on creating better job opportunities for women and reducing the barriers that they face balancing their jobs with having children. As a charity that supports the wellbeing of thousands of women and families in Australia, we will always back pragmatic decision-making that aims to improve their lives.”

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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.

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