

MEDIA RELEASE
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The Benevolent Society announces new Executive Director appointments

The Benevolent Society, one of Australia's first charitable organisations, has appointed Kelly Bruce to the new role of Executive Director, Impact and Engagement, with Michael Woodhouse joining as Executive Director, Disability, Ageing and Carers.

Ms Bruce's portfolio includes business development, partnerships, philanthropy, marketing, communications, RAP, innovation, social impact and advocacy. She has extensive experience as a consultant, executive manager, researcher and project manager for NFP organisations, government, academic and research institutions. Her previous roles include Managing Director for kb west Advisory, Project Manager and Associate Investigator at Macquarie University, and Director of Operations and Projects at UnitingCare Australia.

Mr Woodhouse will lead The Benevolent Society's Disability, Ageing and Carers directorates. Prior to joining The Benevolent Society, he was Executive Director – Strategy, Reform and Support, Courts Tribunals and Service Delivery – at the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. Mr Woodhouse has also held operational and policy positions in the NT and Commonwealth governments.

Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO, The Benevolent Society, says the new appointments come at a significant time for The Benevolent Society.

"We have recently released our 2022-24 strategic plan, which will elevate our support of people, families and communities. Kelly and Michael's leadership and contributions will be invaluable – I am delighted to have them on board."

Established in 1813, The Benevolent Society is a for-purpose organisation that advocates for social change and provides support services to children, young people and families, people with disability, older Australians, and carers.

"The Benevolent Society is such a respected organisation with a proud legacy of supporting people and advocating for social change," said Ms Bruce. "We want to build on this by working closely with sector, First Nations, corporate, government and philanthropic partners who share our purpose. These relationships will be key to helping us create a just society where all Australians can lead their best life."

Reflecting on his new role, Mr Woodhouse said: “There is a lot of opportunity to build on The Benevolent Society’s quality, person-centred services and to develop new innovations that improve outcomes for our clients. I am very much looking forward to being part of this important work.”

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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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