

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **The Benevolent Society and WorkVentures join forces to help bridge digital gap for people with disability**

[The Benevolent Society](#) has partnered with non-profit organisation [WorkVentures](#) to launch a new Digital Inclusion Program to support people with disability achieve their goals with plans already underway to expand the program further to reach more people in need.

With the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) reporting 1.1 million (28.5 percent) people with disability do not use the internet, the initiative aims to boost digital inclusion for people with disability who do not have access to devices and connectivity and have limited digital literacy skills.

Participating clients from The Benevolent Society receive a free laptop computer, 12 months free Internet connection, as well as ongoing training and technical support by trained coaches from Work Ventures. The program, which began in November 2023, is already supporting more than 60 Disability Services clients across metropolitan and regional areas of New South Wales and South Australia.

Jeremy Halcrow, Executive Director, Strategy and Quality, The Benevolent Society, said: “With services, including finance, education and health, increasingly being delivered online, it’s more important than ever that no one gets left behind.

“Our Digital Inclusion Program is removing barriers to digital access for people with disability so they can become more confident finding the information and services they need online and to help them engage with friends, family, health practitioners, schools or networks so they can participate equally in the digital world. We’re extremely proud to partner with WorkVentures to bring this program to life and to widen the program’s reach to support more people in the future.”

Jacob Muller, Director of Technology & Social Impact Solutions at WorkVentures, said: “Digital inclusion is more than just access to devices and connectivity; it’s about ensuring that everyone has the skills and support to thrive in the digital age. Through this partnership, we’re proud to contribute to the holistic empowerment of people with disabilities, enabling them to reap the benefits of the online world with confidence and independence.”

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with clients, particularly those in rural areas, reporting increased connectivity with support networks in the community. And children, like [Oliver](#), are using their laptops to learn new skills like counting.

Plans are now underway to broaden the scope and scale of the program to include other client groups. The second phase will focus on supporting more than 100 of our clients from the [Women's Space in Labrador](#), Queensland and the [NDIS Early Childhood Approach \(ECA\) Program](#) in the following South East Queensland regions: Logan City, Redland City, Brisbane City and Moreton Bay Regional Council areas.

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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.

#### **About WorkVentures**

[WorkVentures](#) is Australia's leading IT social enterprise, committed to transforming Australia through technology, skills, and meaningful career pathways. Through partnerships with business, government, and the for-purpose sector, they provide equitable career pathways through up-skilling and entry-level job opportunities, and uplift parts of society that are digitally disconnected through affordable refurbished technology, digital training, and online safety measures. Enabled by corporate laptop donation schemes, their digital inclusion programs have supported over 100,000 Australians to-date.

#### **FOR INTERVIEW REQUESTS & IMAGES, CONTACT:**

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