

MEDIA RELEASE

National Not-For-Profit Organisation, the Benevolent Society Launches in South Australia

1 June 2018 - The Benevolent Society - Australia's first charity - is establishing a presence for the first time in South Australia.

The Benevolent Society is one of Australia's largest provider of allied health services to people with disability. It also supports older Australians to remain in their own homes and works with families and children to create safe and nurturing environments. Today, The Benevolent Society it is announcing a merger with respected South Australian disability services organisation, Inclusive Directions. Inclusive Directions will become a part of The Benevolent Society, benefitting from the capacity and scale of a large not-for-profit organisation, while continuing to deliver the exceptional, family-focussed services they have proudly delivered for over 30 years.

Additionally, we will launch our allied health services for people with disabilities in South Australia to meet the needs of the community as the NDIS is fully implemented. We are delighted to have the support of the South Australian Government through the *Future Jobs Fund* to support this expansion. This support, coupled with our own investment, will create at least 230 new jobs in the state over the next five years as part of achieving the organisation's ambitious growth plans across South Australia.

Benevolent Society CEO Jo Toohey says,

"We are bringing our expertise and experience from over 200 years of service to the community, currently operating in NSW, ACT, Qld and northern Victoria. We will partner with local providers, communities and stakeholders to develop solutions that respond to the needs of South Australians."

"By coming together we can increase the impact we have as organisations. Inclusive Directions delivers an incredible boutique service to support and empower families living with

autism, intellectual disability, and complex needs and behaviour. The Benevolent Society is Australia's first charity and is a national organisation."

"Since 1813 we have supported families at every stage of life through our services for children, families, people with disabilities and older Australians. We passionately advocate for social justice. Together we have the local knowledge, specialist expertise, voice and scale to deliver better outcomes for families in South Australia than either of us could deliver on our own. In an expanded role, Inclusive Directions CEO Jocelyn Graham will become The Benevolent Society's Director of Operations for South Australia, supporting us to expand our offering," adds Jo Toohey.

Inclusive Directions CEO Jocelyn Graham says,

"The Benevolent Society and Inclusive Directions have a shared vision and values, particularly a commitment to a just society where all Australians can live their best life. We are delighted to be joining with an organisation who can work with us to expand our services in South Australia and offer our clients, community and staff their expertise and influence".

The transfer of Inclusive Directions to The Benevolent Society will go into effect on the 2nd of July 2018.

-ends-

For interviews with The Benevolent Society CEO Jo Toohey, please contact:
Stevie Rooney, Director, Brand & Communications, The Benevolent Society
02 8262 3469 or 0401 676 903
stevie.rooney@benevolent.org.au

About The Benevolent Society

The Benevolent Society is 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 www.benevolent.org.au, on Facebook/thebenevolentsociety or on Twitter - @BenevolentAU