

MEDIA STATEMENT: 23 March 2023

Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO, The Benevolent Society:

“The Benevolent Society welcomes the Prime Minister’s important step in the historic Voice to parliament referendum announced today. We support the Voice as the first step to the implementation of the recommendations of the Uluru Statement.

This referendum is about two things: recognition and consultation. If we want to Close the Gap, we need to stop doing the same things and expecting different outcomes. We need to stop making decisions in capital cities rather than in communities. And we need to listen – the Voice will enable us to do this as a nation.

The Voice is a mechanism to enable First Nations people to speak, consult, engage and shift the dial on collective decision making and outcomes for Indigenous people. First Nations people have the right to be heard. We will all be better off for it.

The Closing the Gap initiative exists to focus on equal outcomes for all Australians. There are real people, real families and children behind the appalling Closing the Gap statistics.

Voice matters. Let’s all get behind it.”

---ENDS---

MEDIA CONTACTS:

M: 0413-995-189 (Jon Abbott) | 0421-761-332 (Elizabeth Johnson)

E: jon.abbott@benevolent.org.au | Elizabeth.Johnson@benevolent.org.au

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.

