

MEDIA STATEMENT

28 November 2022

Statement by Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO, The Benevolent Society on the federal government's forthcoming Industrial Relations Bill, and the agreement with independent Senator David Pocock to create an independent, legislated Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee. Led by the treasurer and social services minister, the committee will bring together experts, advocacy and peak bodies to review and provide advice on structural challenges to economic inclusion each year before the Federal Budget.

Statement by Lin Hatfield Dodds, CEO, The Benevolent Society:

"The anticipated Industrial Relations Bill will pave the way to lifting wages for low-paid workers and provide tremendous benefit for Australia's care economy. More adequate income contributes to wellbeing and social inclusion for workers and those reliant on welfare payments – it is pleasing to see this bill will support that.

The development of the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee is a classic example of smart strategic policy and is a landmark decision. The advice of the committee will shape the context of public debate and policy development, drawing attention to income inequality, and what can be done about it. We understand that the committee's mandate will include the level and structure of income support, which is welcome.

It is well known that current levels of support are so low they are undermining peoples attempts to seek suitable work. I am confident that the expertise of the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee will help find ways to address these challenges."

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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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