

MEDIA RELEASE

The Benevolent Society Hosts Official Opening for Wollongong Office

Office situated on University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus

Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbury & local MPs (Cunningham, Shellharbour) attend

16 January 2018 - The Benevolent Society, Australia's first charity, today hosted the official opening of its Illawarra office. The new office, as announced in July, is on the University of Wollongong (UOW)'s Innovation Campus. It is the first time The Benevolent Society has had an office to service the Illawarra. Most of the multidisciplinary services will focus on disability clinical provision.

To acknowledge the event, Sharon Bird, Federal MP for Cunningham; Anna Watson, State MP for Shellharbour; and Wollongong Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbury attended, along with other distinguished guests from the University of Wollongong, from local businesses and from other not-for-profits.

Irene Maya, Senior Manager of the new Benevolent Society Wollongong office, discussed the thirty six members of the disability service team who provide a range of therapies to people with disability in home or wherever they prefer to receive assistance. She also reinforced the developing collaboration between The Benevolent Society and the University of Wollongong.

Guest speaker Maree Becker, a graduate of UOW's iAccelerate Centre, which develops start-ups and fosters innovation, created an app called Life Our Way that The Benevolent Society's disability community service team will use in their interactions with clients. She discussed her brother having a disability and how this led her to develop the app, a "sophisticated management and communication tool that makes it easy for family members and carers to coordinate and share with support staff what happens every day."

The new office, on Squires Way in North Wollongong, will provide in-home disability services to people throughout the Illawarra.

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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