



**Narelle 27
Campbelltown**

“When The Benevolent Society said they would help us, it was a godsend.”

Narelle’s violent husband is now in prison, but although she feels safer, her problems haven’t ended. The fear and chaos of living with domestic violence have already left their mark on her five year old daughter Kayla. She’s falling behind at school, finds it hard to make friends and gets in

trouble for her uncontrollable and sometimes aggressive behaviour. Through a mix of individual and family counselling sessions, play therapy, work and home visits over a 12 month period, our child protection team was able to help Kayla work through her feelings of pain and anger. They also worked with her teacher to ensure she gets the support she needs at school. Now Narelle and Kayla can both look forward to a brighter future.

Creating caring and inclusive communities and a just society

Some facts

- The Benevolent Society is a company limited by guarantee with an independent Board. We have more than 800 paid staff and 900 volunteers.
- Our revenue in 2008 is expected to be \$55 million, an increase of 13% from the previous year.
- Approximately 91% of our revenue is spent directly on our services. A further 4% is spent on leadership, social initiatives and research.
- 71% of our income comes from Government. Fundraising, trust and foundation grants provide 5% of our income. Client fees generate 14% of our income and our investment portfolio has contributed a further 10%.

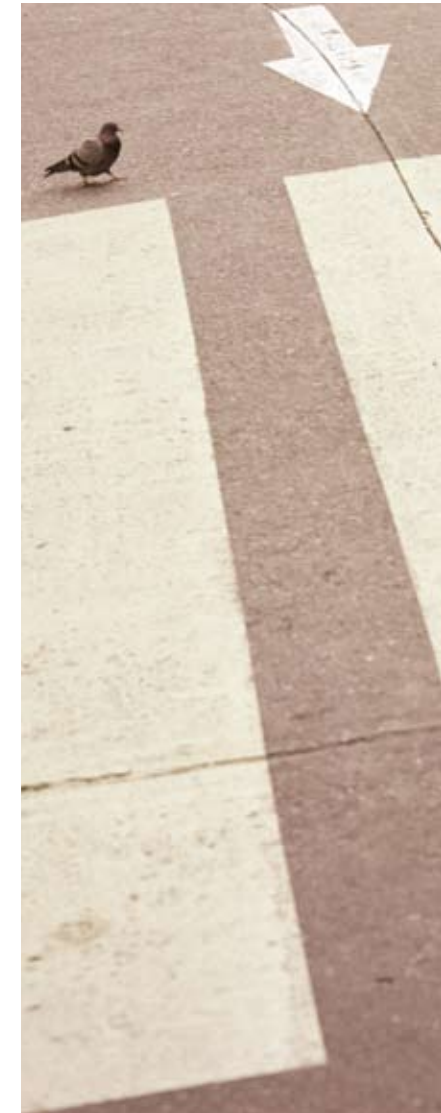
For further information please visit our website at www.bensoc.org.au

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The Benevolent Society is Australia's oldest charity. Established in 1813 we have been caring for Australians and their communities for nearly 200 years. We are a secular, non-profit, independent organisation working to bring about positive social change in response to community needs. Our purpose is to create caring and inclusive communities and a just society.



Who we help

We help the most vulnerable people in society. We provide services to more than 16,000 children and adults each year in metropolitan, regional and rural areas across NSW and in Queensland. We support people from all backgrounds including Indigenous Australians and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

What we do

Our vision is that every person is healthy, safe, connected and has a meaningful and productive role in their community.

- We work to ensure **children** are nurtured and safe with their families, protected from abuse and neglect.
- We help **women** make positive futures for themselves and their families and support them to move on from domestic violence.
- We help **older people** to age well and to live independently for as long as possible with dignity and respect.
- We support **people who are carers** of a loved one.
- We provide information, counselling and support for **people affected by adoption**.
- We are improving the financial skills and knowledge of people who are vulnerable to financial exclusion, through our **financial education programs**.
- **Our social leadership and community development programs** help people to lead change in their own communities.
- We deliver **Out-of-Home Care** services for children and young people who are unable to live with their birth families.
- We assist **people with severe mental illness** to better manage their daily lives and participate more fully in the community.

Carolina_80 Bexley

"We got married in Italy. He's been a wonderful husband for 60 years and I want to look after him. He's got heart problems and gets very confused, it's hard. My daughters help out when they can, but they have their own families and can't stay here at night. I have to have an operation next month, they say I won't be able to look after him for two weeks."

Our carer respite team talked to Carolina about her husband's needs. She wanted her husband to stay in a familiar environment, so we provided a paid careworker for the times when family were not able to be there.

Our approach

The strategic objectives we have identified to help us achieve our purpose are:

- delivering leading edge programs and services;
- investing in research and evaluation to increase our knowledge about social issues and to find better solutions for our clients and the communities they live in;
- using our expertise as a platform for influencing policy change.

Our history

We have a distinguished record of 'firsts' in social welfare reform and health service delivery since 1813. Some of our major achievements as social pioneers and innovators include:

- Lobbying to introduce free legal aid and securing the old age pension.
- Providing shelter for homeless children and adults and food and cash relief during the Depression.
- Establishing the Royal Hospital for Women, Australia's first maternity hospital and pioneering district nursing in Australia.
- Setting up the first baby health care in Australia and introducing the Early Intervention Clinic for vulnerable mothers and newborns.
- Developing innovative services in child protection, women's health and aged care.
- Introducing social leadership and social venture initiatives.