

## Media Release

### Mining, defence, activist leaders working together

#### Business, NGO, government decision-makers embark on year-long leadership journey

Leaders from the campaigning organisation, GetUp!, property group, Stockland, Indigenous advocacy group, GenerationOne and the RAAF join 24 other decision-makers this Wednesday 22 February for a year-long leadership program run by The Benevolent Society's Social Leadership Australia, aimed at facilitating lasting social change.

Other participants in the [Sydney Leadership program](#), which is competitive and selective, include a mining consultant, the head of the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability, senior managers from Johnson & Johnson Medical and Suncorp, an investigation officer with the Australian Human Rights Commission, and the Director of the National Ageing Research Institute and consultant to the CSIRO.

With widespread criticism over the quality of Australian leadership, and as the world faces complex social, environmental and economic challenges with no known solutions, Australian decision-makers and emerging leaders will need to harness an ability to act adaptively and form new alliances to make real progress.

Director of Social Leadership Australia, Geoff Aigner, says: "Leadership is not a position, it is an activity. We all have the potential to exercise leadership. But we also need to authorise our leaders to make the changes we want to see; to admit they don't have all the answers, to consult and to have the courage to step into the unknown."

Social Leadership Australia (SLA) was established more than a decade ago by The Benevolent Society as part of a vision to shift Australian leadership thinking and practice to help make the world a better place. In the past 13 years Social Leadership Australia has become a thriving centre, teaching more than 500 people across some 20+ programs a year. These include a 2-year inter-cultural program in the NT, bringing together leaders from across Alice Springs, to a specially crafted series for the NAB that has challenged the bank's understanding of community responsibility and boosted organisational engagement and customer satisfaction.

Find out more and read the full list of Sydney Leadership 2012 participants on the [Social Leadership Australia website](#) at [www.benevolent.org.au/leadership](http://www.benevolent.org.au/leadership).

#### Media contact

Vivienne Reiner, Communications Officer **t** 02 9339 9388 **m** 0432 352 132

#### About The Benevolent Society

Established in 1813, The Benevolent Society is Australia's first charity. We work with women, children, families, older people, people with a disability and those who care for them and people affected by adoption. We support more than 41,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged people to build on their strengths and lead happy and fulfilling lives in NSW and Queensland. Our vision is that every person is healthy, safe, connected and has a meaningful and productive role in their community. We spend 89% of our revenue on our community operations. Find out more on [The Benevolent Society website](#) at [www.bensoc.org.au](http://www.bensoc.org.au).

Sydney Office  
Level 1, 188 Oxford Street  
Paddington NSW 2021

PO Box 171  
Paddington NSW 2021

**t** 02 9339 8089  
**f** 02 9360 2319

Brisbane Office  
9 Wilson Street  
West End QLD 4101

PO Box 5347  
West End QLD 4101

**t** 07 3170 4618  
**f** 07 3255 2953

[www.benevolent.org.au/leadership](http://www.benevolent.org.au/leadership)