



Friday 25 June 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

Benetas recognised as a FAIR AND FLEXIBLE employer

Not-for-profit aged care provider Benetas has been recognised as a 2010 Fair and Flexible Employer by the Victorian Government's Working Families Council.

Industrial Relations Minister Martin Pakula presented the award to Benetas at a special ceremony in Melbourne on Wednesday 23 June.

Benetas CEO Sandra Hills is thrilled with the award: "This is a wonderful accolade that reflects our dedication to investing in progressive workplace practices and family friendly working conditions for our staff.

"Benetas understands the need to be a fair and flexible employer because really, it's our workforce that provides us with our competitive edge.

"Providing progressive workplace practices ensures our people have the attitudes and skills to deliver first-class services for older Victorians.

"This will continue to be a key strategy for Benetas into the future - providing further fair and flexible working opportunities for our workforce. This is critical given we're facing an ageing population and there will be increasing demand for our services." Ms Hills said.

Some of the options Benetas offers staff include flexible start and finish times; flexible use of leave including 48/52 leave arrangements; job-sharing; quality part-time work; working from home arrangements; a 'Stay in touch' program for staff on parental leave; Leadership development program for managers; and a mentoring program.

Ms Hills said Benetas was also proud to participate in the 'Bringing Nurses Back to the Workforce' program. "We also support our staff to apply for the Postgraduate Community Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme and have developed a traineeship program that has provided around 100 women with opportunities for further career development.

"We're also pleased to offer an internal Scholarship Program that provides financial assistance to staff to support learning and development opportunities in a work related area and up to three months study leave," Ms Hills said.

Benetas media contact: Michelle Low 0417 536 662

Benetas is a not-for-profit organisation, founded by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in 1948. Benetas provides quality aged care services for more than 2,000 older Victorians within its 12 residential care facilities and through its extensive community care programs that enable older people to stay at home with support. Benetas is also one of the leading providers of dedicated day and overnight respite services in Victoria.