

# YOUR LEGACY

Leave a gift in your Will and help family life carry on at Ronald McDonald House Charities®

Leaving a legacy – or a gift in your Will – to Ronald McDonald House Charities® can be a powerful way of being remembered by others. Your gift can support seriously ill children and their families long into the future.

## Family comes first

At Ronald McDonald House Charities, we are all about family. We encourage you to first take care of your family and friends in your Will before leaving a gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities. It's important to start a conversation with your family and friends about your wishes to help limit any misunderstandings about your legacy. By explaining the importance of your wishes, this might save possible hurt feelings, money and effort spent in contesting an Estate.

We are always happy to provide information about our Charity at any time. It might be helpful to arrange a tour with your family to one of our Ronald McDonald Houses, so they feel informed and comfortable with your decision.

## Why do you need a Will?

Your "Will" is a legal document that provides your last instructions about how you would like your Estate to be distributed. It also names specific people, groups or organisations ("the beneficiaries") that will receive benefit from your Estate after your death when the time comes.

By having a valid Will, you can ensure that your wishes for your legacy are honoured and that your family and friends are provided for in the way you intended.

## How to make a Will

We recommend contacting a Solicitor who specialises in Wills/Estates or your Public/State Trustee for help. Professionals help ensure that all the legal formalities of a Will are met and will be able to give advice on your individual situation. However, anyone over the age of 18 years old can make a written Will with guidance.



Start with planning – make lists of your assets, your beneficiaries and then decide what items will be left to whom. You will also need to decide who you want to be your Executor (you can have more than one). They will be responsible for carrying out your instructions and finalising your Estate.



Include your wishes into a valid Will format and make sure you use the correct names and addresses for your beneficiaries and Executor/s.



Review and discuss your wishes if needed, especially if you feel future conflict may occur – your Solicitor and Executor/s may be able to help with this.



Once your Will is in a written, valid format, make sure you sign the Will before 2 independent witnesses (that do not receive any benefit in the Will). Most importantly, keep your Will in a safe place and tell your Executor and/or family where your Will is kept.



## Types of gifts you can leave in your Will

The most common gifts you might see in a Will are:



A Specific Gift – you can choose to leave a specific gift that is easily identifiable such as funds in a bank account or perhaps a property, vehicles, home contents, jewellery, artwork and shares.



A Pecuniary Gift – you can choose to leave any sum of money nominated by you.



A Percentage Gift – you can decide to leave a percentage of your Estate to the charity (e.g. x% of your Estate).



A Residual Gift – this means leaving the remainder of your Estate to the charity after specific gifts are considered.



The whole of Estate – if you do not have any dependant family or friends who you wish to leave a benefit for, you may choose to leave all of your remaining funds and assets to the charity.

While we are grateful for any gift you choose to leave Ronald McDonald House Charities in your Will, it is sometimes hard to accept "specific gifts" as they need to be sold before they can help the Charity. A pecuniary, percentage, residual or whole Estate gift is the most effective way you could help.

## Recognising your Gift

Choosing to leave a gift in your Will to Ronald McDonald House Charities is such a personal and important decision. If you do leave a gift, we would love to thank you for your intentions and be able to recognise your support and treasure our relationship. Please complete the enclosed Intention to Donate Form and we will keep you updated with our activities and invite you to future events including a tour of your local Ronald McDonald House.

## Liz and her Legacy

*"As a staff member, I experience firsthand, every day, the amazing work that Ronald McDonald House does, what an absolute privilege to be a part of such a meaningful and compassionate organisation. By making the balance of my Estate a bequest to Ronald McDonald House Charities, I know that this will be a legacy that directly contributes to supporting the ever-changing needs of seriously ill children and their families. I do this in memory of my beautiful mother who was critically ill and who would be very proud to know that well into the future, our family has been able to help 'Keep families close' when needed the most. "*

**Elizabeth Tracey,**

Ronald McDonald House Charities ACT and South East NSW



## Thank you!

From the bottom of our heart, we thank you and appreciate you taking the time to learn more about Ronald McDonald House Charities.

## Get in touch

Call us on **1300 307 642**  
or email [supporter@rmhc.org.au](mailto:supporter@rmhc.org.au)

Contact our Gift in Wills team direct at  
[leaveagift@rmhc.org.au](mailto:leaveagift@rmhc.org.au) and see  
[www.rmhc.org.au/leave-a-gift](http://www.rmhc.org.au/leave-a-gift) for more information.



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