

Our promise to our supporters.

We pledge that the support you bequeath to Barnardos will be used to provide the highest quality services to traumatised and disadvantaged children in Australia. We will use our experience and knowledge to make sure that the children in our care have the best opportunities to develop their lives.

As an organisation we are reliant on public donations and bequest income to provide welfare programs that work to over 6,000 children, young people and their families each year. It is this revenue from individual supporters that enables us to remain an independent advocate for the rights of disadvantaged children in our community; and to have the flexibility to provide services for which government funding may not be available.

A bequest is a way to give beyond one's lifetime, a way to make a lasting contribution towards the challenges that lie ahead for many Australian children and young people.

In the 'How to help us' section of our website there is a Wills and Bequest section which provides documentation available for viewing or downloading by individuals and solicitors. This includes suggested appropriate wording for including a gift to Barnardos in your Will along with our FREE 'Guide to Wills and Bequests'. This document is also available in printed format.

A bequest to Barnardos enables us to plan for the future with confidence and security knowing that we have the financial resources to meet our commitment to the children placed in our long-term care.

If you or your family would like to know how a bequest can help us, we are happy to discuss this in more detail with you. Contact bequests@barnardos.org.au or telephone 02 9218 2300. All discussions and communications with Barnardos are confidential.

Frequently asked questions.

We've tried to answer some of the questions you may have to help you along the process of preparing or changing your Will.

Q. What is a Will?

A. A Will is a certified instruction by you, which is legally enforceable, detailing how you wish for your assets to be distributed upon your death. It is important to ensure that if you do have a Will it is a valid and current document.

Q. What happens if you do not have a valid Will?

A. If you pass away without a valid Will, you die intestate. Legal implications concerning the distribution of estates are different across Australian states and territories. If you do not leave a valid Will your assets will be dealt with by the relevant state or territory law. This could result in unnecessary costs, delay in processing, financial stress on your family and friends, and ultimately the distribution may not reflect what you would have wished for.

Q. Who should be appointed as an executor?

A. An executor is an individual or individuals selected by you to administer your estate. They can be beneficiaries of the estate or any other person you trust and deem responsible. It is generally suggested that two executors are appointed to ensure the instructions within your Will are adhered to.

Q. Does marrying or divorce change the status of my Will?

A. Yes, it is important to be aware that marriage automatically voids an existing Will in Australia and after divorce the status of a Will changes, so it is important to prepare a new Will if either a marriage or divorce takes place.

Q. Should I consider a power of attorney?

A. It is suggested that all individuals consider and review the appointment of a power of attorney with their solicitor at the time of preparing their Will. There are a number of capacities in which power of attorney can be given and it is important that these be clearly considered. If you do not have an appropriate power of attorney established and you become ill or incapacitated then generally you will become a protected person and the Public Trustee or other appropriate government body will be appointed to manage and carry out your affairs on your behalf.