

## We Would Like to Hear From You

If you would like to assist us to help children with Autism to a brighter future through your special bequest, we hope that you will let us know. We would like to thank you personally and keep you up to date with the Association's progress in helping these children.

## What is Autism?

Autism is a rare developmental disability which is characterised by problems in social understanding, communication and interests. These may be present to a mild, moderate or severe degree.

Approximately one in every 160 children in Australia is diagnosed with Autism. Autism occurs more frequently in males. Little is known about the causes; however, growing research points to biochemical error or organic brain disorder.

Autism can be suspected in the first year of life but is not usually identified until the age of two or two and a half years. Help is often sought because of behavioural problems or language delays or abnormalities.

There is as yet no cure but the most promising treatment at the present time seems to be an individualised, highly structured approach designed to meet the needs of the particular child.

## Further information

If you would like to know more about the Autism Association of Western Australia, please contact us on (08) 9489 8900 or via email at [autismwa@autism.org.au](mailto:autismwa@autism.org.au).

If you would like assistance with contacting a lawyer, we will be happy to assist you; or you may contact the Public Trustee on 1300 746 116 or fax (08) 9222 6617.

## Autism Association of Western Australia

### Our Mission

"To advance the personal development, equality of opportunity and community participation of people with Autism."

# Bequests Gifts That Live On



T (08) 9489 8900  
F (08) 9489 8999  
E [autismwa@autism.org.au](mailto:autismwa@autism.org.au)

Locked Bag 2 SUBIACO WA 6904  
215 Stubbs Terrace Shenton Park 6008  
[www.autism.org.au](http://www.autism.org.au)



# Bequests

## Gifts That Live On

Your bequest to the Autism Association will enable us to help West Australian children with Autism to a bright future!

### Wills

"Will n. – Written directions made by a person for disposal of his property after his death"

That's the Oxford Dictionary's definition of a will – and it really is that simple, provided you're aware of a few essentials.

### Why Make a Will?

A will sets out instructions for how you want your property and assets to be distributed. Without a will, the State will make the decisions, which may not be what you wish. By making a will, you are showing your care for others and not leaving your loved ones with problems to attend to, later.

### How do I Make a Will?

The best way is to have your will drawn up professionally by a lawyer, the Public Trustee, or a Trustee specialising in this area.

You can do it yourself but simple errors can lead to the document being deemed invalid, or the subject of expensive litigation; and consequently your wishes not being followed as you intended.

### What is an Executor?

An executor is somebody you appoint to take care of your affairs when you die. This can be a family member or friend. Do keep it in mind that administering a will can be quite a complex issue.

As an alternative you may appoint a lawyer or a Trustee. There are charges associated with this, usually based on the gross value of your estate.

### What is a Bequest?

A bequest is a gift through your will. Once you have provided for your loved ones, you may decide to leave a gift to the Autism Association of Western Australia.

A clause in your will could read as follows:

"I Give and Bequeath to the Autism Association of Western Australia (Inc.) in aid of that Institution and for its general purpose, free of all duties, the sum of \$..... and/or.....% of my Estate, and/or Life Insurance Policy No ..... and/or the property situated at..... for which the receipt of the Treasurer or other authorised Officer shall be sufficient discharge"

(The previous clause is an example only and should be used only after consultation with your legal representative.)



### Changes to Your Will?

If you have already made your will but wish to leave a bequest to the Autism Association, you can add a Codicil – an amendment to your will – which details your bequest to the Association.

### How Your Bequest Will Help

Bequests are a valuable source of income for the Association. Your gifts during your lifetime and afterwards will help the most vulnerable of lives.

Your gift will help to provide the following services:

- Early Intervention services
- School Age Intervention Services
- Adolescent and Adult Services
- Psychological Assessment and Advisory Services
- Respite Services
- Family Support Services

