

A Lasting Legacy



**Leaving a bequest in your Will to
Macular Disease Foundation Australia**

A Gift in Your Will is a Lasting Legacy

Leaving a bequest, a gift in your Will, is a very special act of generosity and one way of making a positive difference beyond your lifetime.

A bequest to Macular Disease Foundation Australia will support the Foundation in delivering its sight saving work to help ensure that all Australians can see a future.

Every bequest received by the Foundation is welcome whatever the amount, big or small.

Your gift will help all Australians living with macular disease, along with their family and carers, for generations to come.



About Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Macular Disease Foundation Australia is a national charity with the mission to reduce the incidence and impact of macular disease in Australia, primarily macular degeneration.

The Foundation is committed to its work through the provision of education and awareness programs, funding and pursuing research, providing information, guidance and support for those living with macular disease and low vision, and representation to ensure accessibility and affordability of treatment and rehabilitation.

About Macular Disease

Macular disease is the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia. Macular degeneration is the most common disease and is responsible for 50% of all vision loss and blindness in Australia. It primarily affects older Australians.

One in every seven Australians over 50 (one million people) show some evidence of macular degeneration. Other macular diseases include diabetic retinopathy (which is the leading cause of blindness in working age people) retinal vein occlusions and a range of other macular dystrophies.

Macular disease and its associated vision loss can have a major impact on quality of life and independence.

How Will Your Bequest Make a Difference?

There are two ways you can direct your bequest:

1. Research Grants Program

The Foundation's research grants and fellowship program makes a significant contribution to Australian research into macular disease. Through the generosity of the Australian community, the Foundation continues to invest heavily in research.

2. Foundation Programs

The Foundation undertakes a wide range of activities across Australia to educate, raise awareness, provide support and represent the best interests of the macular disease community.

- **Education:** educating and informing the community and health care professionals with accurate and current information on macular disease.
- **Awareness:** promoting early detection, diagnosis and treatment for those at risk and support pathways for those with vision loss, their families and carers.
- **Support services:** providing information, support, guidance and understanding to the macular disease community via services including the Foundation's national Helpline, publications and website.
- **Representation:** being the voice of the macular disease community by advocating for accessibility and affordability of treatment and rehabilitation including low vision aids and services.

How to Make a Bequest

Planning your estate today means you can provide for your loved ones and support causes close to your heart, such as Macular Disease Foundation Australia.

If you do not have a Will

If you do not have a Will and wish to create one you should seek advice from a solicitor or the Public Trustee in your state. You can then include a bequest when you create the Will.

If you have a Will

Simply add a Codicil (a short legal amendment) to your existing Will. Again, your solicitor or Public Trustee can assist.

Types of bequests

1. A **residual bequest** is the most effective way to leave a bequest. It is a gift of what remains after you have made provisions for your loved ones. A residual bequest will keep up with inflation.
2. Leaving a **percentage of your estate** allows you to decide what proportion of your estate you would like to provide as a bequest. This will also keep up with inflation.
3. A **pecuniary bequest** is a fixed sum of money to be left as a bequest.

“Our eyesight is so precious. I am so grateful that I knew enough about macular degeneration from attending the Foundation’s education session. When my vision suddenly changed I knew to seek help right away and this most probably saved my sight.”

For your solicitor

Please take this information with you when you visit your solicitor to draft or update your Will. We suggest the following wording:

“I give and bequeath to Macular Disease Foundation Australia:

- the rest and residue of my Estate, or
- [.....] percent of my Estate, or
- [.....] percent of the residue of my Estate, or
- the sum of \$[.....]

to be used for its [general programs] or [research programs] and for which the receipt of the Treasurer or other officer shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor.”

Your solicitor may also require the following details:

Macular Disease Foundation Australia
Suite 902, 447 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000
ABN 52 096 255 177

Research is a journey of discovery with the ultimate destination being a place where we can save sight, so that all Australians can see a future.

Jean's Story

Over 20 years ago, while driving, a black spot appeared in my vision and I couldn't see properly. I didn't fully understand what was happening at the time and it was a number of weeks before I had my eyes checked. I was eventually diagnosed with wet macular degeneration. At that time, there was no effective treatment and I am legally blind as a result.

The Foundation did not exist back then so it was very difficult to find information and support and to truly understand what was happening to my sight.



There have been great advances in the diagnosis, treatment and availability of information on macular degeneration and it saddens me that these were not available for me.

However, I take heart in knowing that the Foundation is there now for everyone and that the work they do will help my children, my grandchildren and future generations.

I am passionate about supporting the Foundation and their work to help save sight and to help people like me live with low vision, and to hopefully one day find a cure.



detach and send

Thank you for your support

Thank you for considering providing a gift to Macular Disease Foundation Australia in your Will.

If you so choose, please take the time to provide the following information to help keep our records updated. This information is strictly confidential.

- I have updated my Will to include a bequest to Macular Disease Foundation Australia
- Please call me to discuss leaving a bequest to Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please detach and send this form to:

Post: Macular Disease Foundation Australia
Reply Paid 85946, Sydney NSW 2000

Fax: 02 9261 8912

Email: info@mdfoundation.com.au



For further information and support, or a free information kit, call the Foundation's Helpline 1800 111 709 or visit www.mdfoundation.com.au

Our focus is your vision

Macular Disease Foundation Australia
Suite 902, Level 9, 447 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000