



**MacKillop  
Family  
Services**

[mackillop.org.au](http://mackillop.org.au)

## **Leave a Gift in your Will**

You can transform the  
future for families in need





# Align your Will with your values

A gift in your Will to MacKillop Family Services will change children's lives.

At MacKillop everything we do aligns with our values of Justice, Hope, Collaboration, Compassion, Respect.

A gift in your Will is powerful. It reflects what's important to you, what has shaped your life and is an ultimate expression of your values.

When you make or amend your Will, reflect on your own personal values and how a gift to MacKillop can mirror your priorities and bring hope and healing to future generations.

Once you have met the needs of those you love, a gift in your Will to MacKillop Family Services will ensure future generations of children, young people and families in need will have the support and care they require to thrive despite disadvantage.

## Your gift will:

Activate **Justice**

Instill **Hope**

Enable **Collaboration**

Demonstrate **Compassion**

Ensure families are treated with deep **Respect**

These values are at the core of everything we do at MacKillop. They direct, shape and inform our work with children, young people and families in need. They drive our vision and mission and are the motivation to never give up.

As Saint Mary MacKillop once said:

“Never see a human need without doing something about it”



# A message from our CEO

As Chief Executive Officer at MacKillop Family Services, each day I see the impact your support can have on some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families in our community. Our work takes time, courage and patience. It's stories like Leo's, who you can read about later in this booklet, that make the difficult times worthwhile.

Every single gift in a Will we receive – regardless of size – makes a difference. And it is a gift that doesn't need to impact your lifestyle today. Of course, we expect that you would look after your own family first.

However, by adding a gift to MacKillop Family Services, you'll help look after children who might miss out on that kind of family support. Gifts in Wills have enabled us to trial new and innovative approaches to service delivery, to provide a higher level of service than might otherwise be funded and to develop our trauma-informed care models.

I encourage you to discuss this with your family and your solicitor as you consider leaving a legacy to MacKillop that will honour your values and extend your impact to future generations. My colleagues and I consider it an enormous privilege to be custodians of this incredible gift. So please, if you can include us in your Will, use the form at the back of this book to let us know, so we can thank you for your generosity and compassion.



Dr Robyn Miller  
Chief Executive Officer





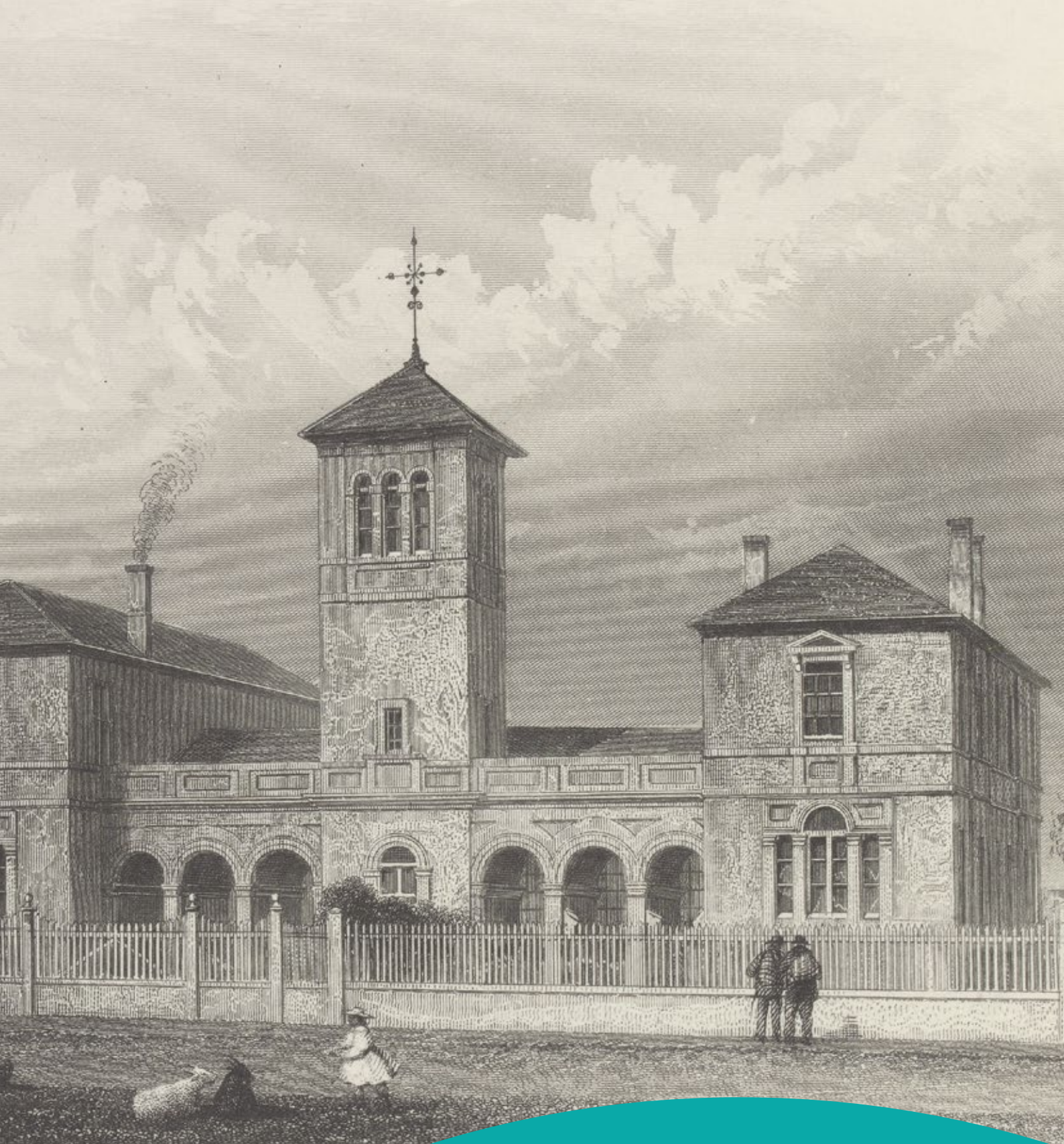
# Our history

Inspired by the charism of their founders – Catherine McAuley, Edmund Rice and Mary MacKillop – our founding congregations began establishing homes for children over 150 years ago. They cared for children who were orphaned, destitute or neglected, and for mothers in need of support. The model of institutional care later evolved into the services MacKillop Family Services offers today: residential care, foster care, education and family support services.

MacKillop Family Services was established as a refounding of the ministries of the Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph in 1997. We are now a leading provider of services to children, young people and families. In 2009, Edmund Rice Community Services, an agency of the Christian Brothers in New South Wales, became part of the organisation. We further expanded our geographic reach into Western Australia in 2012 when the Department for Child Protection sought an agency to provide a therapeutic foster care service. In 2022, we extended our program footprint into the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory

In addition to our core programs, we offer supported release of records to women and men who, as children, were in the care of our founding agencies. In their memory, we opened a Heritage Display on the site of the former St Vincent de Paul's orphanage, which is open to the public. A gift in your Will can help us continue to support more children and families as need arises.





“

**Find happiness in making  
others happy”**

Saint Mary MacKillop



# An enduring legacy

A Will allows you to protect your family and loved ones and to make a difference to the lives of others, long after you are gone. Everyone should have an up-to-date Will. If you die without a Will, and do not leave any eligible relatives, the government may receive the proceeds of your estate. So, it's important that your Will clearly states how you want your estate distributed.

We recommend that you seek advice from a qualified solicitor or legal practitioner to ensure your wishes are clearly stated, and legally binding. We also suggest that you consider your family and loved ones first, and discuss your intentions with them to ensure that your wishes will be honoured.

A gift in your Will to MacKillop Family Services will be invested immediately and live on in perpetuity, with the income generated funding our work. So you can be assured that your generosity and compassion will continue to foster hope and promote justice for future generations of vulnerable children, young people and families.

To maximise the impact of your gift, leaving the residue or a percentage of your estate means your gift will retain its value over time, regardless of inflation, while enabling you to put the needs of your family first.







**Give to the poor in  
handfuls „**

Blessed Edmund Rice



*My mother was the second eldest of six children and there was a catastrophe in their life when they lost both their parents by the time Mum was aged 11. The three girls were taken in by the Nuns in Swan Hill and educated through to their merit certificate. Those three girls had successful adult lives that I think was in no small way due to that critical intervention."*



Angela has generously extended her support by including a gift in her Will. She is thankful for the support her mother and aunts received from MacKillop and strives to ensure future generations of children can continue to be supported to reach their potential.

*"We're all aware that some children have overwhelming difficulties and sometimes an intervention of a small thing at the right time can make a big difference.*

*My family needs are taken care of, my children are grown up, and my husband and I are in a position to look at giving back to the community. In my professional life as a GP, I've seen the importance of evidence, feedback and adjustment of programs, and MacKillop is very impressive in this respect. Not only do their programs do good for the community but they are subject to feedback and in many cases academic research and evaluation. "*

Dr Angela Rutherford



**“** I have chosen to leave a gift in my Will to MacKillop because I grew up in St Joseph's Home in Surrey Hills. I was also inspired by the fact that three separate Catholic orders chose to come together with lay leaders to promote justice and foster hope, this is something I really admire. **”**

Mr Allan Curtain

**“** I supported St Anthony's – and now MacKillop because I think it does such valuable work, particularly in the areas where it is most needed. **”**

Mrs Christine Sellars





How a Gift makes a difference

## Supporting reunification of families

**Ethicah\* had a traumatic childhood, most of which was spent in care. She experienced poor mental health and struggled with drug addiction. Five weeks after she became a mother at the age of 18, Ethicah's daughter Lilah\* was removed from her care.**

Ethicah was intent on being reunified with her daughter and breaking the intergenerational cycle of child protection involvement. However, the odds were not in her favour, and she was told she was unlikely to succeed in seeking custody of her daughter.

Ethicah needed someone to genuinely believe in her and support her to address

her barriers to parenting. She found this in MacKillop's Family Preservation and Reunification Response (FPRR). Our staff gently addressed her worries, giving her the confidence to lead her own pathway to reunification.

Lilah was 18 months old when she returned to live with Ethicah, at which point she could safely and confidently parent her daughter. Ethicah had also developed the self-advocacy she needed to continue thriving and growing as a mother.

The FPRR service extended their support to ensure Ethicah achieved her parenting goals and Ethicah says that without this support, "I wouldn't have been able to be reunified with my child. That's a fact."

*\*Name changed to protect privacy*



# Healing from trauma with neurofeedback

When 10-year-old Leo\* first entered MacKillop's care, he had a long history of exposure to family violence, leading to extreme risk-taking behaviours. He was jumping off buildings, running into traffic and at times, would suddenly punch and kick those around him. Leo had been an in-patient at a child psychiatry unit for three months and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing urgently sought our help as Leo's mum was struggling to cope.

The Neurofeedback team quickly recognised Leo's behaviour was a trauma response linked to his childhood experiences. Neurofeedback is a non-invasive, therapeutic intervention that teaches people with abnormal brain wave patterns due to trauma, to bring their brain activity into a normal range.

As well as being assessed for autism, our psychiatrist identified that Leo was experiencing frequent 'absent' seizures, leading to a diagnosis of epilepsy. Over the course of a year, Leo's challenging behaviours and emotional outbursts significantly reduced, and he was able to return home to mum.

"It has been so rewarding to see the change in Leo over the 30 sessions of Neurofeedback. Not only were we able to identify the underlying medical cause of his behaviour, but with the right medication, therapy, and a lot of support from mum, Leo has not only returned home, but also returned to school where he is thriving," said, Tyler Hitchens, Neurofeedback Clinician.

*\*Name changed to protect privacy*



# Margaret's Circle

By leaving a gift to MacKillop Family Services in your Will, you are committing to support vulnerable children, young people and families well into the future. To demonstrate our thanks for that commitment, you will be eligible to join Margaret's Circle – a group of individuals who have joined you in taking this remarkable step.

Margaret's Circle is named in honour of (Therese) Margaret O'Connor. Margaret was a librarian, a musician and a carer for her beloved invalid sister. In retirement Margaret took up the cello and she was a member of four orchestras when she died at the age of 90 at Mercy Place, an aged care home that shares a founder – the Sisters of Mercy – with MacKillop. The youngest of five siblings, Margaret was an independent and private person who loved her family, her many friends and her pets. Her family supports this final donation to MacKillop Family Services. Margaret had donated to MacKillop since we formed in 1997, previously supporting one of our precursors, St Anthony's Family Preservation Services.

The gift in her Will was the extension of a lifetime of support, that will help us continue to walk alongside the most vulnerable children, young people and families well into the future. When you leave a gift in your Will to MacKillop, as an expression of our gratitude, we will invite you to join Margaret's Circle. As a Circle Member, you will receive exclusive invitations to functions at which you will hear firsthand of how your generous support will impact of families in need well into the future.

We appreciate some people wish to keep these matters private and we respect your privacy. However, with your consent we would love to connect with you personally and keep you informed of our work, either as a Member of the Circle or directly as an individual.

**To advise us of a Gift in your Will, complete the adjacent form and mail it to us at: MacKillop Family Services, Reply Paid 77250, South Melbourne VIC 3205 or contact us to discuss your intentions on 1300 218 935.**







# Types of gifts in Will

1. A percentage of the value of your estate
2. The residue of the estate, or what is left after your family and other beneficiaries have been provided for
3. A specified amount of money
4. Specific items such as shares, insurance policies or property
5. Conditional – a provision that if any specific bequest cannot be carried out (e.g. if a beneficiary has passed away) that asset will be donated to MacKillop Family Services



**“ We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us ”**

Venerable Catherine McAuley



# Wording your will

There are a variety of bequest clauses, but the following is the one most used for a general bequest:

*"I give, devise and bequeath to MacKillop Family Services Limited (237 Cecil Street, South Melbourne, ABN 79 078 299 288),*

- *The residue of my estate, or*
- *A Percentage of my estate, or*
- *the sum of \$ [insert the relevant amount], and/or*
- *Items from my estate*

*for its general purposes, free from all duties, deductions and charges. The receipt of an authorised officer of MacKillop Family Services Limited shall constitute a full and sufficient discharge of executor's duties."*

**Do you already have a Will?** For those of you who already have a Will and wish to include a gift to MacKillop Family Services, it may be a simple matter of having your solicitor add a codicil – a short legal amendment to your existing Will. Your solicitor can check that the codicil fulfils all legal requirements and does not contradict other clauses in your Will. We generally recommend that you review your Will from time to time, in case your circumstances change.

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, please contact us for a confidential discussion on 1300 218 935. Alternatively, you can inform us about your intentions or request further information by completing the form at the end of this booklet or email us at: [support@mackillop.org.au](mailto:support@mackillop.org.au).

*\*None of the information contained within this document should be considered legal advice and you should seek the advice of a suitability qualified and registered legal practitioner for the purposes of obtaining advice that is specific to your circumstances.*

# Our promises to you

We know that entrusting us with a Gift in your Will is a meaningful commitment. So, it's one we reflect in these commitments to you.

1. **We will always respect that your own family and loved ones come first.** So, we encourage you to include them in discussions about your Will and, should you include a gift to MacKillop, bring them to any of our events you might attend.
2. **Because we want to keep as many children safe as possible,** we often ask people to consider including us in their Will. However, we will always respect that this is your decision, and one that you will make in your own time.
3. **We will use your gift – however large or small – wisely;** ensuring that it has the greatest possible impact on vulnerable children and families.
4. **We will always respect your privacy.** We would love to know if you have chosen to leave us a gift in your Will so that we can thank you and keep you informed about our work, but you are in no way obliged to tell us. If you do inform us, you can also choose how you would prefer to be acknowledged and communicated with.
5. **We understand that your circumstances** may change and that when reviewing your Will, you have the right to change your mind about your gift to MacKillop Family Services.





# Notification form



Please be advised that I have included MacKillop Family Services in my Will to receive:

- ☐ The residue of my estate
- ☐ A Percentage of my estate
- ☐ A specific cash amount (specify if desired)
- ☐ Items from my estate (specify if desired)

## My preferences

- ☐ I would like to be invited to Margaret's Circle events
- ☐ I would like to be acknowledged as a member of Margaret's Circle in the MacKillop Annual Report
- ☐ I would like to remain anonymous as bequestor:
  - ☐ Until my death
  - ☐ Even after my death
- ☐ I would consider sharing my story of why I included a gift in my Will to inspire others
- ☐ I have enclosed a copy of my Will for your information

## My details

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact:

☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Mail

If applicable, your Spouses Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward your completed form to:**

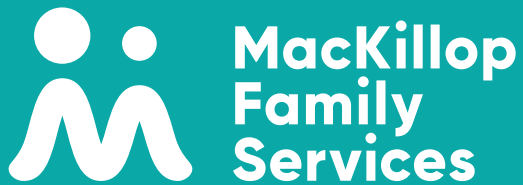
**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Gift in Wills Manager

MacKillop Family Services

Reply Paid 77250

South Melbourne VIC 3205



## **Victoria**

237 Cecil Street  
South Melbourne VIC 3205  
(03) 9699 9177

[enquiry@mackillop.org.au](mailto:enquiry@mackillop.org.au)

## **New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory**

Level 1, 38 Prince Street  
Blacktown NSW 2148  
(02) 8881 4800

[nsw@mackillop.org.au](mailto:nsw@mackillop.org.au)

## **Western Australia**

147-149 Colin Street  
West Perth WA 6005  
(08) 9250 1114

[wa@mackillop.org.au](mailto:wa@mackillop.org.au)

## **Northern Territory**

3/4 Shepherd St  
Darwin NT 0800  
(08) 9160 4650

[nt@mackillop.org.au](mailto:nt@mackillop.org.au)



MacKillop Family Services Limited is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) as a company limited by guarantee (ABN 79 078 299 288, CAN 078 299 288). We trade under the name MacKillop Family Services and are subject to the MacKillop Family Services Act 1998 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012.

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