

Your gift to tomorrow's families

*How to include MacKillop Family Services
in your Will and keep future generations of
Australian children safe.*

**MacKillop
Family Services**





To foster *hope* and promote *justice*

This is what every donation you give to MacKillop Family Services makes possible through services including residential care, foster care, education, family support and disability services.

Every day, your support helps us deliver positive change for children, young people and families that have experienced family violence, substance abuse, neglect and poverty.

We've touched so many lives already, but there remains much to be done.

By extending your support for MacKillop Family Services through a gift in your Will, you have the

unique ability to change lives well into the future.

You will keep future generations of Australian children safe.

You will help young people who have experienced trauma to recover and thrive.

And you will help vulnerable families achieve stability.

Together we can change the future.

A message from our



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 Marina'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 and psychology clinic.

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 recognised through this incredible gift. So please, if you do choose to 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 vision.



Dr Robyn Miller

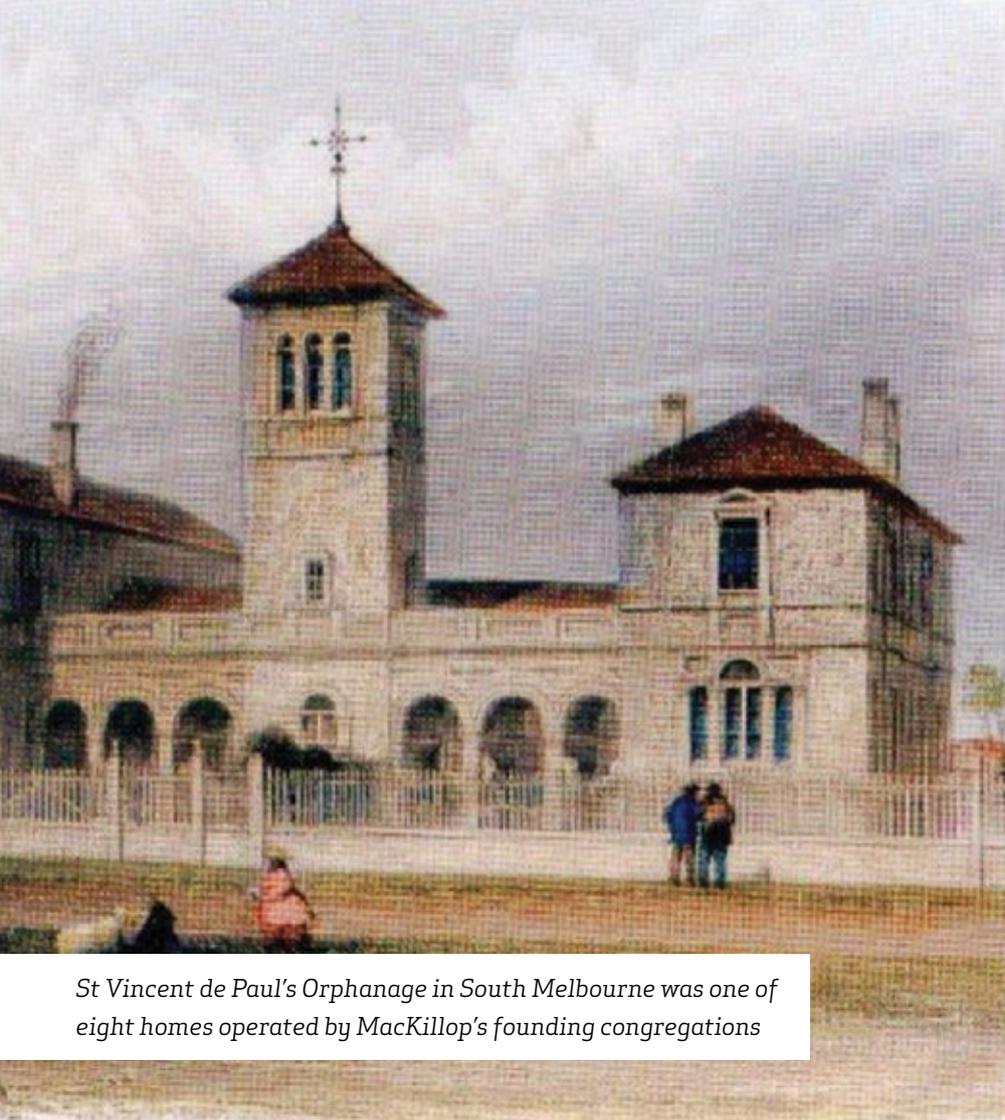
Chief Executive Officer

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



St Vincent de Paul's Orphanage in South Melbourne was one of eight homes operated by MacKillop's founding congregations

ministries of the Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph in 1997. We are now a leading provider of integrated 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 2016, we merged with Cara Inc to provide specialised services for young women, including mothers.

In addition to our core programs, we offer support 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 in 2013, which is open to the public.

A gift in your Will can help us continue to serve more children and families as need arises.



// The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow

– Catherine McAuley

Marina's journey from childhood *trauma* to sporting *success*



When Marina and her two sisters came into our residential home, she had never known human touch except for being hit. Twelve years later, she has turned her life around and plays professional soccer in America.

This is the kind of life-changing impact a gift in your Will can have on young people in our care.

Marina came into MacKillop's care when she was just 13 years old. Orphaned in the Serbian war, she and her siblings suffered terrible abuse in the home of a relative in Australia. When she came to MacKillop, Marina was partially deaf from being hit around the head.

Marina had no natural affection and didn't show a lot of care for herself or others.

Sue, who was her MacKillop Residential Worker said:

// One day, when she fell off her bike, she was more upset by me putting my arms around her to comfort her than by the accident.

But Sue quickly saw that Marina had real determination. As part of her commitment to get kids involved in the local community, Sue helped her join a soccer team, which really helped take Marina out of her shell.

Marina also took part in MacKillop's silent art auction, where our children had the opportunity to exhibit their art at Federation Square and receive the proceeds from any that sold. This was where she first discovered the creativity that later helped her get her degree in art and design.

When Marina turned 18 and had to leave our residential home, Sue helped her to find alternative accommodation and continued to support her through life's challenges. This included her successful application for a soccer scholarship in the US.

"Getting the Scholarship was easy compared to all the paperwork we had to go through to get her into the USA" says Sue.

But any heartache Sue went through at the time is more than made up for by seeing her success today, as Marina not only keeps in touch about her career as a professional soccer player but says that Sue has been one of the most important people in her life so far.



The *power* of your Will

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.

Types of bequests:

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



Alan's legacy from a lifetime with *MacKillop*



Alan Curtain has a unique life-long connection to MacKillop Family Services, but his decision to leave a gift in his Will to continue our work is one that anyone can make.

Alan came into care at St Joseph's Babies Home soon after his birth in 1972. He then moved to St Joseph's Children's Home in Surrey Hills where he lived until it closed in 1980. He was honoured to sit on MacKillop's board for a number of years, stewarding our organisation as it cared for the next generation of vulnerable children.

Alan always maintained his bond with MacKillop, mostly due to Sister

Mary Kavanagh, who was in charge of his dormitory at St Joseph's. Sister Mary kept in touch with all the kids, organised reunions and always remembered his birthday.

Alan says:

// We're so close that my daughter calls her Grandma Mary, she really is part of my family.

Alan also understands the issues facing children in our out-of-home care program, having lived in some

of the cottage homes that preceded today's residential houses, and later in foster care.

He says he struggled when he finished school, because it had been his one source of stability. But he knows he is luckier than many. "I wasn't afraid to challenge things, or to tell people what I wanted."

Alan even chose his foster family when his cottage home closed. The Coopers had been recruited by the Nuns as "holiday hosts", with whom Alan spent every Christmas. When he asked if he could stay with them permanently, they were delighted.

He lived with them until long after he turned 18.

Asked what led him to leave a gift to MacKillop in his Will, Alan says:

"It was because of my story, but also because of MacKillop's. The fact that three separate Catholic orders chose to come together with lay leaders to promote justice and foster hope is something I really admire".



Alan reunites with the Sisters of Saint Joseph who looked after him as a child



Alan at St Joseph's Babies Home in Broadmeadows

How your gift can *keep families together*

When Natalie was introduced to our family services team by child protection workers, they were concerned her 6-year-old daughter Caitlyn would have to be removed from her care due to neglect. Today, Natalie considers MacKillop to be her second family, and visits regularly to update us on Caitlyn and their lives together.

Natalie was involved in inappropriate relationships with male acquaintances, some of whom were violent and regularly staying at their house. The school complained of Caitlyn's erratic behaviour, and there was concern that Natalie might be using alcohol or other drugs

that could exacerbate her mental health issues.

MacKillop's case worker, Angela, talked to Natalie about what she thought were her biggest challenges, and helped her get back on track.

Angela introduced Natalie to local mental health services and provided financial counselling.

Natalie realised that without MacKillop's help she could lose Caitlyn, so she committed to one-on-one work with Angela to improve her parenting skills. This helped her to better support Caitlyn, improving their relationship and Caitlyn's behaviour.

Angela helped Natalie find a job, and together with financial counselling, this meant she was able to purchase a car. This in turn meant she could take Caitlyn to MacKillop's school holiday activities as well as family counselling sessions and other family outings.

Eventually, Natalie agreed that it would also be best to break ties with her inappropriate acquaintances, putting her relationship with Caitlyn first.

A gift in your Will can keep families like Natalie's together, providing the intensive support they need to keep their children safe at home.

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."

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.

Need more information?

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, please contact our Fundraising Manager 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



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 recognition of the largest direct bequest made to date to MacKillop Family Services by (Therese) Margaret O'Connor.

Margaret O'Connor 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 of her entire estate to MacKillop Family Services.

Margaret had donated to MacKillop Family Services 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.

By leaving a gift in your Will and joining Margaret's Circle, you will become part of our extended family. Not only will your support provide care into the future, but you'll be invited to our exclusive Margaret's Circle events. Like any family member, we'll share our challenges and our achievements with you.

Of course, the decision to attend these events is up to you. We understand that some people like to keep these matters private. However, we are committed to reporting back to our key supporters and recognising the contribution they make towards our future.

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 call our Fundraising Manager to discuss your intentions on:

 1300 218 935

Our *promise* 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

Spouses Name: _____

Please forward your completed form to:

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
Fundraising Manager
MacKillop Family Services
Reply Paid 77250
South Melbourne VIC 3205

**MacKillop
Family Services**



MacKillop Family Services

ABN 79 078 299 288

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



MacKillop Family Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Elders in each of the Communities where we work.

MacKillop Family Services was founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph.

**MacKillop
Family Services**

mackillop.org.au