

Leaving Your Diabetes Research Legacy

Leaving a gift to a charity in your Will is a decision normally given a considerable amount of thought and is usually motivated by a desire to make an ongoing difference to the lives of those you love, and others more broadly.

Given the decision to leave a legacy isn't made lightly, it follows that people who choose to do this rightly expect and want their wishes to be followed.

But with Will disputes becoming increasingly common in WA, it's clear more discussion needs to be had to ensure a person's bequest makes it to their chosen charity; a bequest that doesn't make its intended destination can have a devastating impact.

An issue that too few people are aware of is that before they leave a gift to a charitable organisation, they must legally have adequately provided for their family in their Will – it's this type of family provision claim that is on the rise in the WA Supreme Court.

If not enough attention is paid to the family provision legislation ie. if you don't consider your family first in your Will, your attempt to leave a legacy is very likely to be unsuccessful.

At Diabetes Research WA, we know how powerful leaving a legacy can be; of the \$5 million we've awarded to research in WA, more than half has come from bequests.

This means half of our successes – including research showing type 2 diabetes can dramatically affect the everyday thinking skills of up to 1 in 3 adults aged 60 and older and discovering 6 subtypes of type 1 diabetes and 3 type 2 diabetes subtypes, which pave the way for helping prevent diabetes complications – are thanks to this form of giving.

If you're considering leaving a gift in your Will, it's a great idea to:

- Decide and write down what you want your legacy to be
- Take the time to meet with your chosen charity and clarify what they do to ensure it's a good match for you.
- Be specific about the organisation's name and purpose when giving instructions for your Will.
- Talk to your family early on about your legacy and why it's important to you. If you can't do this, leave a letter explaining your wishes.
- Create a meaningful connection with your chosen charity and let them know about your plans to give.

The more carefully you plan your gift, the more likely it is that your dream to make a difference can be realised.

Thanks for reading, I'd love to hear your thoughts. You can email me here:
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