



# A Guide to Bequests

*“I Will help tomorrow’s heart kids”*





“I’m so grateful for HeartKids NSW.  
Because of their support we don’t feel so alone.”

*Deanna, Zali’s mum*

## Helping tomorrow's heart kids, today.



Each day in Australia, six babies are born with Childhood Heart Disease (CHD). While researchers funded by HeartKids NSW are working tirelessly towards a cure, the truth is that we cannot predict just how or when a medical breakthrough will free children from this life-threatening disease.

What we do know is that countless families like Zali's will continue to call on our vital assistance long into the future. It is so important that we have the resources to care for all heart families, for as long as they continue to need us. By choosing to leave a gift to HeartKids NSW in your Will, you will help secure our organisation's future.

**Your act of kind-hearted generosity will go a long way toward ensuring that we can be there for all of tomorrow's many beautiful heart children and their families, to help them safely through the array of difficulties that CHD presents.**

# About Childhood Heart Disease

**Childhood heart disease (CHD) is the most common birth abnormality affecting one in 100 children.**

- Six babies every day across Australia are born with some form of CHD – that's over 2000 per year.
- In Australia, CHD is the greatest killer of children under the age of one.

## **What's more...**

- Approx half of children diagnosed with heart disease require surgery or medication.
- CHD accounts for 35% of childhood deaths.
- Each week more than 5 Australian children pass away as a result of CHD.
- More than 1,300 heart kids are admitted to intensive care each year.
- Heart disease is the most common reason for admission of Australian children to intensive care units. In most children's intensive care wards approx 50% of patients are heart kids.

**Despite its prevalence, only one national organisation exists to minimise the impacts of Childhood Heart Disease: HeartKids.**



# About HeartKids NSW

HeartKids NSW supports children with Childhood Heart Disease (CHD) and the families who cherish them throughout NSW and the ACT. Our support services focus on ensuring that 'heart families' are not alone on their journey with CHD. We also advocate on behalf of the CHD community and work hard to improve public awareness about the disease, its impacts and the vital need for increased levels of support.

Importantly, we partner with leading cardiologists and researchers who are working to reduce the incidence of CHD and to decrease the unacceptably high mortality rate.

Our support services include:

- FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATORS – provide one to one support to families on the ward.
- FAMILY CAMPS – give families 'time out' to recharge and bond with others in similar circumstances.
- BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – assisting families who have lost a precious heart angel to grieve healthily.
- FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – provides financial support to help families make ends meet.
- RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM – ensuring families affected by geographical barriers have equitable access to support.
- CARE BAGS – distributed to all new families upon their arrival at hospital, care bags contain provisions to make their stay away from home more comfortable.
- PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM – social events and peer-to-peer friendship facilitation to minimise families' feelings of isolation.

**HeartKids NSW receives no government funding. Our ability to support heart children and their families is wholly dependant upon the generosity of members of the community... Caring men and women like you.**

# Support that heals lives

**Often, when we think about the tribulations that arise for parents upon learning that their child has heart disease, we think only of the pain they feel at the prospect of losing their beloved child...**

But despite the incalculable depths of fear and sorrow diagnosis brings – it is only the tip of the iceberg with regard to the challenges heart families must face.

Most families are met with financial pressures – oftentimes extreme – due to the necessity for one or both parents to take extended periods of unpaid leave, or quit work altogether to care for their child. Marital relationships can be placed under pressure, because in most cases one parent must be absent from home for extended lengths while their child is hospitalised. Siblings can also be deeply affected.

For the emotional wellbeing of the diagnosed child, it is absolutely vital that parents and siblings are also supported and coping well. This is why HeartKids NSW takes a whole-family approach to offering care.

We know that it is in everyone's very best interests to provide a broad framework of support services which assist families to meet the emotional, financial, social and psychological challenges that CHD brings.

In so doing, HeartKids NSW works hard to minimise the impacts of CHD on precious heart kids and the families who cherish them. Our support helps ensure that heart families can heal from the pain of diagnosis and adjust healthily to their new pressures.



## Zali's story

**Zali was only six weeks old when she was diagnosed with a heart condition. Despite their many concerns, Zalis' parents were determined to treat her just the same as they would any child – they didn't want their daughter to be defined by heart disease...**

“However, it's sometimes hard to avoid being over protective when you know that a cough or cold could lead to a chest infection and then something more serious.” Her mother, Deanna, says.

Just like most babies her age, Zali did the rounds of gym babes and play dates with her doting mum, with the goal being that when she reached 10kg, she would undergo surgery. Finally the big day arrived.

“The toughest thing I've ever done in my life was entering the operating theatre and allowing them to put my little angel to sleep in my arms in preparation for heart surgery. I don't wish this experience on anyone...”

But Deanna was forced to face this terrifying situation yet another four times, as repeated operations were required to treat this frail little girl.

Thankfully today Zali is a happy, talkative and determined little toddler who, as her mother puts it, “has a lot of attitude”.

HeartKids NSW has remained by the family's side throughout their journey with CHD.

“I'm so grateful for HeartKids NSW” Deanna says, “because of their support we don't feel so alone.”



# Bequests

## How to make a bequest

Making a bequest is straightforward process that involves adding your preferred charity, HeartKids NSW, as a beneficiary to your Will. For more information about how to make or update your Will, please refer to our complimentary booklet 'Your Guide to Making & Updating your Will'.

## Options for making a bequest

There are a number of different ways to make a bequest. The option that is right for you will depend upon your own unique preferences and circumstances.

Bequest options include:

- A specific dollar amount
- A percentage of your total estate
- The residue of your estate (i.e. What remains of your estate after your loved ones have been provided for)
- A percentage of the residue of your estate
- Items of value (such as shares or real estate)

## Suggested wording for a bequest

"I give [insert dollar amount/items of value/% of my residuary estate] to HeartKids NSW ABN 41 660 178 267 for ...



# What your generous gift will provide

- Hope for children living with Childhood Heart Disease
- Reassurance to the family members who love them
- Financial support to alleviate the economic pressures that come with caring for a seriously ill child
- Emotional and psychological support to help heart families cope well with their challenges
- Investment in research to find breakthrough cures and treatments

*“ I want ongoing support to help us come through our journey with CHD as a family ”*



*“ I want to grow up and be a heart surgeon ”*

*“ I look forward to walking my little princess down the aisle ”*



## Honouring your support

When you notify us of your intention to leave a bequest to HeartKids NSW in your Will, we shall demonstrate our gratitude by granting you special inclusion into the Gracious Hearts club.

The Gracious Hearts club is an exclusive group of individuals who, just like you, believe passionately that every child with CHD deserves the very best opportunity at a long and fulfilling life. These members have crystallised their commitment by writing HeartKids NSW into their Will.

As a Gracious Hearts club member, you shall receive:

- A token of thanks
- Regular updates via our e-news and hard copy newsletters
- VIP attendance to our annual Supporter Thank You event



# My Confidential Reply Form

Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms (Please circle)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Business): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

The best time to call me is between: \_\_\_\_\_

## Optional Information

My Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (in full): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

## My intentions are:

- I have already made a bequest to HeartKids NSW in my Will.
- As a benefactor I would like to be included as a member of the Gracious Hearts club.
- I would like to discuss making a bequest to HeartKids NSW in my Will. Please contact me by telephone.
- I intend to make a bequest to HeartKids NSW but I believe it will be \_\_\_\_\_ months before I have my affairs in order.

**Please fold and seal your completed form as per the fold marks overleaf and place in the post at your earliest convenience.**

Thank you. One of our Planned Giving Officers will be in touch with you shortly. Please be assured your personal details will be handled in the strictest confidence.

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Planned Giving Officer  
HeartKids NSW  
P.O. Box 170 Westmead Hospital  
Westmead NSW 2145

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