



A lasting legacy

Your guide to leaving a gift to
Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Compassion, impact and empowerment will be your lasting legacy

On behalf of the team, thank you so much for considering a gift in your Will for Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA).

I cannot think of a more meaningful way you could show your compassion for those currently suffering from macular disease and those who will be diagnosed in the years to come.

There are many reasons you may have chosen to consider supporting Macular Disease Foundation Australia. You might be living with macular disease yourself, be at-risk with a family history, or you have cared for someone who has progressively lost their vision.

Leaving a gift in your Will, however big or small, is a powerful way to leave a lasting and meaningful legacy.

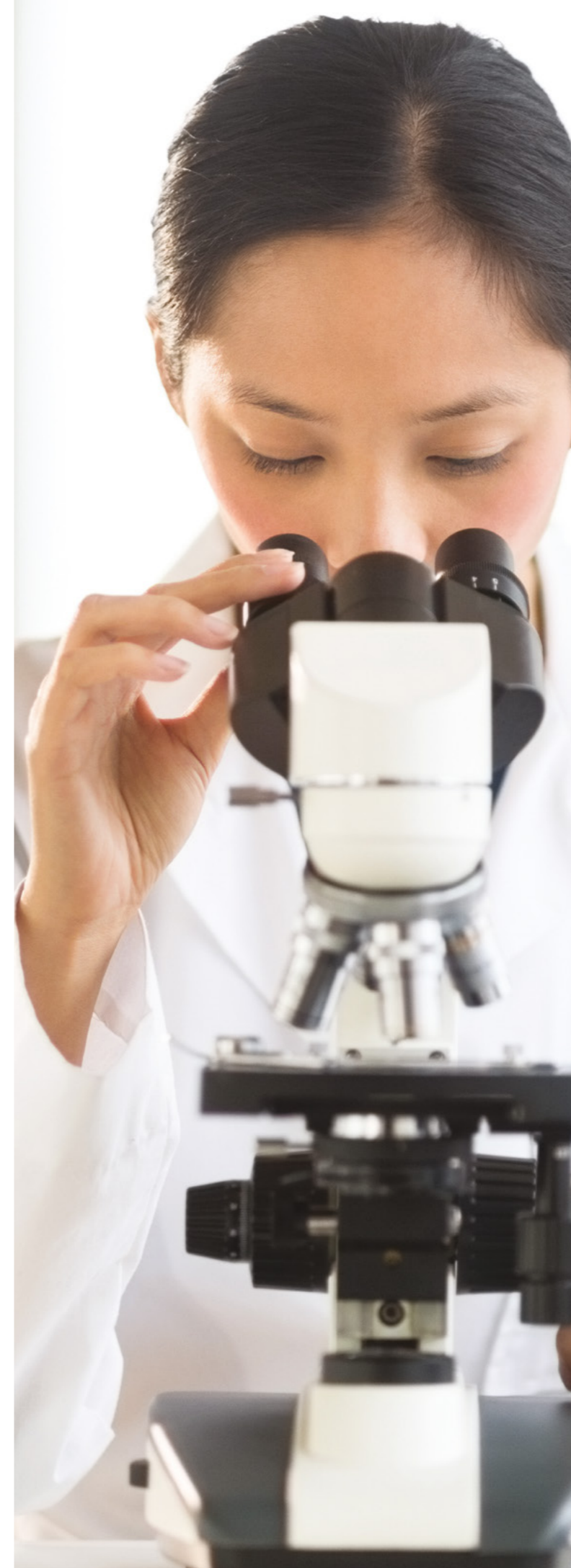
With 1.9 million Australians showing some evidence of macular disease, you can play a vital role in supporting MDFA to reduce the impact of macular disease for future generations to come.

I am so thankful that you are considering supporting MDFA in this visionary way.

Kind regards,



Dr Kathy Chapman
Chief Executive Officer



Let's help all Australians see a better future

Macular disease is the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia. Over 1.9 million Australians are living with macular disease.

Today, one in seven Australians over the age of 50 have some evidence of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common macular disease.

There are many factors which can influence the development of macular disease. Some conditions run in families, leaving generation after generation with the potential for vision loss and blindness.

A gift in your Will can help you to be a part of our research and support services. With an ageing population and increasing prevalence of macular disease, your support will help **change lives for generations to come.**

“Receiving this grant from MDFA really helped ensure my team could continue its life-changing research”

- Professor Mark Gillies



Your support has helped
change the outcomes for retinal blindness

Professor Mark Gillies is a leading ophthalmologist with the University of Sydney and the Save Sight Institute. He received a \$400,000 research grant funded by MDFA as a direct result of the generous donations we receive from our supporters.

Professor Gillies is the leader of the Fight Retinal Blindness! Project, an international observational study tracking real world treatment outcomes of more than 5,000 macular disease patients. The online database allows contributing

ophthalmologists from around the world to test multiple clinical questions, compare treatments and regimes for aged-related macular degeneration, diabetic eye disease and other retinal conditions.

The project provides strong, real-world evidence on several key clinical questions, including whether there is any difference in duration of effect between treatments, the effects of reducing treatment frequency, and recommendations that can be made to patients regarding longer term prognosis.

“Receiving this grant from MDFA really helped ensure my team could continue their life-changing research on treatment for macular disease. Having that sort of funding security behind a project makes the world of difference. A big thank you to MDFA and their generous donors for their support over the years.”

You will empower future generations of researchers and patients

Your gift has the power to change the future for people living with macular disease in Australia. It allows you to support a cause that's important to you, potentially giving future generations the gift of sight.

A bequest to MDFA is a meaningful way to make a lasting impact on the eye health and the lives of future generations. Every bequest received by MDFA allows us a considerable

degree of flexibility and security in planning for the future so we can continue to support our community.

By including a gift in your Will to MDFA, you are joining a family of honoured supporters that we call Visionary Partners. Visionary Partners in our bequest program share a common bond: they want a future where no one unnecessarily loses their sight to macular disease.



Our purpose is to reduce the impact of macular disease.



Passion for making a positive impact for our community.
Trust: our work is rigorous and evidence-based.
Courage: we face our challenges and the unknown with courage and embrace innovation.
Collaboration: we value collaboration for collective impact.
Empowerment: our strengths based approach empower our community to live optimally with macular disease.



We assume the best of each other and trust in our words and actions.
 We act with integrity and treat everyone with respect and dignity.
 We embrace diversity and promote inclusion.
 We communicate transparently and debate openly.
 We pursue disruptive and innovative solutions for our community.

How will your bequest make a difference?

MDFA is committed to reaching more Australians living with or at risk of macular disease to build a better understanding of macular disease and to increase awareness of risk, prevention and treatment.

MDFA strives to provide accessible and timely support to the macular disease community to live optimally throughout their disease journey. We support people with macular disease across Australia and our services are targeted to their changing needs.

As the national representative body for the macular disease community, our work is evidence based and co-developed with our community. Together we work to influence positive policy change in the health, aged care and disability systems.

MDFA's translation of research takes us one step closer to beating macular disease and ensures we are there with the best support and evidence based information for people living with macular disease. Every gift is important to MDFA and can have a direct impact in so many ways:



Research: Through the generous support of Australians like you, MDFA has been able to fund more than \$5.7 million in research projects since 2011. Your gift can directly support future research undertaken by world-leading researchers who aim to reduce the incidence and impact of macular disease and ultimately, find a cure.



Community awareness and early detection: With 8.5 million at risk of macular disease, your gift can help reach those at risk with our education services and campaigns – as early detection saves sight.



Supports and Services: Living with macular disease and declining eyesight can be very challenging. Your gift can help us continue to deliver individual support to thousands of Australians and reduce the risk of progressive vision loss.



Advocacy: MDFA works to ensure all Australians can access treatment and resources to help them live with macular disease. Your gift can help us raise the united voice of the growing macular disease community to make lasting change for better and fairer access to government support and affordable treatment.



Rita believes research is the key to ending generational blindness

When 86-year-old Rita's elderly mother lost her sight, it was "just one of those things... we didn't know about the macula in those days".

Then Rita's own sight started to fade. She and two of her six siblings would go blind with different forms of age-related macular degeneration – making her family a classic case study on the hereditary nature of macular degeneration.

While it is too late for her own vision, Rita is pinning her hopes on research to ensure macular disease ends with her generation.

"We had no idea it was hereditary. I've got seven children and fourteen grandchildren and I hope there is a treatment or a cure by the time they need it. Research is so very, very important – everyone should contribute if they can."

"For me and my late husband, Jim, we have always taught our children to work hard and to contribute in any way they can. Leaving a gift to support research into this disease which could affect 50% of them is another way I can support my children, my grandchildren, and future generations of all families affected by macular disease."

"Research is so very, very important – everyone should contribute if they can."

- Rita

You will join an inspiring group of Visionary Partners

Leaving a gift in your Will is a generous act of compassion. It is so important that we honour and celebrate this life-changing contribution.

By including a gift in your Will to MDFA, you are joining a family of honoured supporters that we call Visionary Partners. Visionary Partners share a common bond: they want a future where no one unnecessarily loses their sight to macular disease.

As a Visionary Partner, you will receive a certificate of appreciation, updates and breaking news to give you in-depth knowledge of MDFA's progress via our Vision Voice newsletter.

You'll be invited to exclusive events to meet MDFA staff, Board members, researchers and other like-minded supporters of MDFA. Your name will also be recorded on our Visionary Partners Honour Roll in our Annual Report. Of course, if you prefer to remain anonymous, this will be respected.

I'd like to thank you for considering a gift in your Will to MDFA.

We would love to welcome you to the Visionary Partners Legacy Program.



Kind regards,

Leonie Walton

**Leonie Walton
General Manager,
Marketing & Fundraising**

Looking at the bright side but hoping for a better future

"Macular degeneration runs in my family and I have a lot of family members with this disease including my mother and uncles, who have passed away, my aunt and my sister.

"I was diagnosed 30 years ago when I was still in my 40s, so I have had to live with this disease for a long time.

"I currently have the wet form of age-related macular degeneration in both eyes and have been having regular injections to stop the bleeding.

"I am so used to the procedure that I don't find the injections painful at all.

"Luckily, I can still drive so I can do my own shopping but mostly I get around to my appointments using public transport.

"I have been a strong supporter of Macular Disease Foundation Australia for many years by making regular donations and leaving a gift in my Will. They have always been there to support me when I need their help. They are always available; they listen to me and are very friendly.

"I know from personal experience how hard it is to live with age-related macular degeneration and I hope that my support can help find a cure for this disease soon."

– Kate Butler, NSW

"I hope that my support can help researchers find a cure for macular disease soon."

– Kate

Getting started – how to leave a gift in your Will

Thank you. A gift in your Will to MDFA is a profound and important way to support the work we do.

A gift in your Will can be included when you first make your Will, or added to your existing Will as a codicil, a short legal amendment.

If you do not have a Will and wish to create one, we recommend that you seek advice from a solicitor or the Public Trustee in your state. Writing a Will is usually straightforward but having the help of a solicitor will ensure all requirements are fulfilled so your Will is valid.

If you already have a Will you can simply add a codicil – a short legal amendment – to your existing Will. Again, your solicitor or Public Trustee can assist, and you won't need to rewrite your entire Will.

Talk to your family

We know that family members and loved ones come first. We encourage you to discuss your decision to leave a gift in your Will to MDFA with them before you proceed. By talking to them about your intentions, they will be better placed to fulfil your wishes.

Choosing a gift to leave in your Will

You can leave a gift in your Will in a number of ways. Please discuss these options with your family and your solicitor to work out what is best for you.



A residual gift

This is the most effective way to leave a bequest. With this type of gift, MDFA will receive the balance of the estate after those specifically named in the Will have been provided for.

A percentage gift

Leaving a percentage of your estate allows you to decide what proportion of your estate you would like to provide as a bequest. Giving this way enables you to share your estate among several people or organisations without specifying the property or amounts. It is the best way to make sure both your loved ones and the causes you care about are looked after in accordance with your wishes.

A pecuniary gift

This is a fixed sum of money to be bequeathed to MDFA.

A specific gift

This type of gift enables you to leave a specified cash amount, property, stocks and shares or other items of value to MDFA.

Wording for your Will

If you have chosen to leave a bequest to MDFA we suggest you provide your solicitor or the Public Trustee with the following wording:

“I give and bequeath to Macular Disease Foundation Australia, Mezzanine, 383-395 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000, ABN 52 096 255 177: (a percentage), or (a specific sum or piece of property), or (my whole estate) or, (the residue of my estate) to be used for its [general purposes] or research/program and I further direct that the said bequest shall be paid free of all taxes and duties and for which the receipt of the Treasurer or other officer shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor.”

If you have left a gift in your Will to MDFA, please do let us and your family know. Telling us about your decision to leave a bequest to MDFA allows us to enrol you in our Visionary Partners program and helps us to keep you informed about our work.

This does not alter your right to change or update your wishes if circumstances change, but it does help us to recognise your support, plan for the future and ensure that your wishes are carried out.



Our promise to you

Our Visionary Partners are extremely important to the work of MDFA and that's why we want you to feel completely comfortable with your decision to become a bequestor. We make the following promises to you:

- We will respect your privacy. We never share personal details with other charities. If you would like your gift to remain anonymous, we will respect your wishes.
- We recognise that your family and loved ones will always come first in your Will.
- We rely on the generous support of our community to fulfil our purpose and so we will always encourage donations and bequests. However, we understand that leaving a gift in your Will is completely personal to you and that it is a decision that you will make in your own time.
- We would like to know if you've left a gift in your Will, but you don't have to – and we won't keep asking.
- You will always have the choice about how much information you would like to receive from us.
- We will be respectful and give your family and loved ones as much choice as we can about how your gift is used, to honour your intentions.
- We will use your gift carefully and cost-effectively, so it has maximum impact.
- We recognise that you have the right to change your mind about leaving a gift in your Will to MDFA.

Please don't hesitate to contact us
for a friendly confidential chat

You can contact us via email
bequest@mdfoundation.com.au or give us a call
on our National Helpline 1800 111 709
and ask to speak to our bequest liaison
– we'd love to chat.



**Macular Disease
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