



*Keep the great Australian story alive forever...*

...with a gift

## to the Flying Doctor in your Will.

Australia. Such a vast, ancient, open country. A land of extremes shaped by extraordinary people, living, working and exploring in every distant corner. People who've been carving out lives and livelihoods here forever. One thing makes it all possible: Australians helping Australians.

That's the meaning of the great Australian story, and the very essence of the Royal Flying Doctor Service too.

If you've ever felt that story move your soul, if you know in your heart how essential the Flying Doctor is to the very fabric of Australian life, then keeping it all alive for your loved ones, for future generations, forever, can be your legacy to the Australia you love.



### **The first legacy.**

H.V. McKay helped John Flynn get his "Flying Doctor" dreams off the ground with a gift left in his Will in 1926.



*"I cannot imagine how Australia would cope without the Flying Doctor."*

RFDS VICTORIA SUPPORTER, AJ HANCOCK

It's about

# family and hard work.

Land. People. Heart. You live it. Grow up with it. It's in your bones.

The spirit and essence of Australia is something you value beyond yourself, especially if you're someone who's grown up in the country or lived on the land. Whether that was right here in Victoria, or anywhere else in Australia.

It's not about today. It's not about yesterday. It's not about our hopes and wishes and dreams.

It's about a simpler, purer way of life. About values of hard work and integrity. What it means to each of us, individually, to be an Australian. And how we pass that meaning, that story, on to the people and the nation we leave behind.



### **Early days.**

Rev. John Flynn relaxes over a chat with a local in rural Victoria.



*“ My father was born on the kitchen table. His young brother died 2-years-old. I wonder how different my grandmother's life would have been if the Flying Doctor existed at that time. ”*

RFDS VICTORIA SUPPORTER, S OWEN



## It's about Alan and Shelley.

Alan and Shelley Green are country people through-and-through, both steeped in the traditions of rural life. Alan was born and raised on a cattle station in Western Queensland, and lived on a station in Northern Territory. Shelley was a nurse in rural Queensland and often came across the RFDS through work. They started their own farm in rural Victoria in the 80's.

*“Mental health services in rural communities is a big thing for us. The RFDS is beyond lifesaving, whether you've got a broken leg or a broken heart, they will be there.”*

ALAN GREEN

*“I was very fortunate to grow up in a family with a very strong work ethic. Not a lot of dollars thrown around, but good hard work.*

*Shelley and I came down to Victoria in '82 and after a long drought purchased a block of land that was very sparse and started to regenerate the land. Shelley nursed, and I set up a small contracting business. Then in 1999 we started Green Eggs, a free-range egg business. Chooks are 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We grew it from 2,000 birds to 40,000.*

*The Flying Doctor was part of my life from when I was born. To this day, I remember Dr. Tim O'Leary and his pilot Keith Killen flying into the station clinic once a month.*

*I remember them vividly because I was badly burned as a two-year-old on the back of my legs and feet. They flew me to Brisbane – six months in hospital, skin grafts – then home again.*

*“The culture at the RFDS just staggers me. Everywhere you go they put in 110%.”*

*Our passion for the Flying Doctor has always been there. For the work they do in the outback, and for providing services to people in regional Victoria too. They go where they're needed, to help people affected by distance. Whether it's closing a 10 hour gap to an accident in the outback, or a 3 hour gap to provide a dental service in regional Victoria.*

*We've always donated to the Flying Doctor every year at tax time, but we decided to include a gift to the RFDS in our Wills when our son James died ten years ago. Our focus now is that James missed out on his future, so we are very much about the future of the RFDS.*

*We've got two other kids, and we let them know that whatever's left will be split three ways, because James is still with us... he's at the Royal Flying Doctor Service.”*

# It's about adventure and exploration.

An itch. A dream. A burning need. Some of us just have to get out there amongst it, see it, do it, experience it all.

Australia offers the adventurous souls among us an endless tapestry of discovery. Wild coastlines, towering rain forests, snaking backroads, bustling small towns. And an equally endless supply of beguiling and lovable characters to meet along the way.

Anyone who has ever travelled through this sprawling, ever-changing, heartland, or fallen in love with the people, the places and the passion it exudes, has written a line or two in the great Australian story. And it's only natural you want it to live on forever for future generations to enjoy.



### **When adventure goes awry.**

A Flying Doctor crew loads an injured patient on board a retrieval flight in the 80's.



*“ It took a snake to introduce me to the Royal Flying Doctor story. My admiration knows no bounds. Keep the dream alive! ”*

RFDS VICTORIA SUPPORTER, F MOMEN



## It's about Gillian.

When Gillian Knight moved from Melbourne to Lakes Entrance in her sixties, she decided it was time to indulge her passion for adventure by travelling solo all over Australia in a one-person tent. It wasn't until she was 76 that Gillian swapped the tent for the relative luxury of a small caravan. And she continued her travel adventures well into her eighties.

*“ I hope the gift in my Will helps the Flying Doctor to keep going in leaps and bounds. ”*

GILLIAN KNIGHT (91)

*“ I was one of the original grey nomads and the only women I came across traveling alone. I can't bear the cold, so I used to take off every winter to spend two or three months up in the tropics. Everyone thought I was mad. But I thought, 'No, I'm just adventurous.' ”*

*I've crossed the Nullarbor three times. I've been to Tasmania twice. I've been up the East Coast countless times.*

*I've had quite a few adventures I've never told anybody about. And a few crises too.*

*I had to find a dentist twice. I was admitted to hospital in Karratha. And I was halfway between Cobar and Bourke with 100 kilometres*

*of nothing, just trees, no houses, and I had a blowout on a caravan. But I'm not a panic merchant. If something happens, I just work through it.*

*It was very comforting to know the Flying Doctor was out there. Traveling through the outback I could see the huge distances, and I thought, "Well, I'm traveling on my own, so I will donate to the RFDS as an insurance policy."*

*I've been donating for decades, but recently I thought I would leave some of my money to the Flying Doctor in my Will.*

*It's a fantastic service and there's always going to be miles and miles between stations in the outback, because it'll never be closely settled. ”*

*“ People thought I was mad. I thought, 'No, I'm just adventurous.' And I had a marvellous time. ”*

It's about

# community and solidarity.

Tranquillity. Connection. Understanding. Some of us feel a deeper truth, something indefinably Australian that binds rural and urban people together.

It doesn't matter where you grew up, where you call home, or where you've travelled... something inside you sees and feels the deep connections that run through us all, making the Australian whole greater than the sum of its parts.

It's about the resilience and hospitality of rural people, from Gippsland to Gascoyne, Nullabor to Kakadu, and every point in between. It's about how critical they are to the fabric of Australian life. And the way they go a mile further than they have to help each other. And complete strangers too.

Deeper still, it's about wanting to keep that essence alive for everyone.



**Community connections.**

An RFDS Dragon prepares to fly "bush children" from a remote community to visit the dentist (c.1940).



*“ I have always admired the resilience of the folk of the outback. In many ways, they are the backbone of our vast land. It was a natural desire to include the Flying Doctor in my Will. ”*

ALISON WHEELER



## It's about Don.

Retired country hospital administrator, Don Mahaffy, knows just how badly the Flying Doctor is needed by isolated communities. He's also had first-hand experience of our service, when a severe staph infection left him needing emergency evacuation while on holiday on the Murray River. The infection was so aggressive, Don lost his leg, but he credits the RFDS with saving his life.

*"The gift I'm leaving in my Will is a tribute to the Flying Doctor for saving my life."*

DON MAHAFFY

*"I was on a four month cruise when one night I had this pain in my left foot. I retired to my cabin, but just got sicker and sicker.*

*I don't remember a lot, it was so severe I was unconscious most of the time, but they offloaded me to a country hospital at Waikerie. They had no idea what it was, so they called the Flying Doctor.*

*It was a severe staph infection. I'm a diabetic, and it got progressively worse. The bones in my foot were practically destroyed in three days. They had to take my leg, but I owe my life to the Flying Doctor.*

*During one period of my career I was CEO at a couple of country hospitals, I thoroughly enjoyed those two experiences. Great history. Real plains country. Wonderful people. But they*

*"I lost my leg, but without the Flying Doctor, I'd never have left that little country hospital. I'd have been in their morgue."*

*are so isolated, the Royal Flying Doctor Service is essential to them. It plays an immeasurable role in all parts of their lives, from beginning to end.*

*I see the gift I'm leaving in my Will as a tribute to the Flying Doctor, and a tribute to my first wife and my son, who both died from the same cancer, 16 years apart. Without the Flying Doctor, I would've been joining them.*

*I remarried recently. Judith's a lovely woman. It's just amazing how life goes. We met through church and we had a lovely church wedding.*

*Because I was remarrying I wanted to update my Will, and saw that as a prime opportunity to include a bequest to the Flying Doctor. My daughter is executor, and I discussed it all with her. She said, "Dad, that's fantastic!"*

*"*



# It's about Australians helping Australians.

## Emergency Services

We've all witnessed remarkable advances in life-saving medical science over the last 100 years. But one thing hasn't changed a bit... the vast distances that separate rural people from the medical care they need. Australia will always be vast. And people who live in every corner will always need the Flying Doctor to close the huge distances between them and safety.

**With a gift in your Will, you can carry on providing remote and rural Australians with the "Mantle of Safety" John Flynn saw they needed back in 1922.**



## Community Health

Our community services bring vital care deep into the heart of isolated communities across Victoria: free community transport taking elderly people to health appointments, qualified first aid responders for community events all over the state, Women GP's in small towns, speech therapy for children, and now our first ever permanent, bricks-and-mortar Health Clinic.

**With a gift in your Will, you can help us to extend services like these to help even more rural Victorians get the quality and variety of health care they need.**



## Mobile Healthcare

Our flagship Mobile Patient Care service helps thousands of Victorians every year to get from home to hospital, with in-ambulance medical care along the way. But we also provide a range of badly needed mobile and phone-based healthcare services – like dental care, eye care, telehealth, and mental health support – to people who might otherwise delay seeking help, or never seek it at all.

**The continuation and expansion of these services, many of which are life-saving, can be your enduring legacy to the state of Victoria.**



## Memory Lane

Not everything we do fits in a neat box. Such is the case with Memory Lane, an extraordinary service that's all about lifting the spirits of people in end-of-life care. Together, we give Victorians who are living with terminal illnesses, or in palliative care, the chance to visit a place of deep personal significance to them, be it a beach, a forest, or their own back yard.

**These magical moments mean the world to people and their loved ones. And the gift you leave in your Will can make so many more possible.**



# It's about *you*, and how you take your place in the great Australian story...

**Most of us would probably agree we've lived through some challenging and rapidly changing times in recent years. The world looks and feels very different to the one we all grew up in.**

Yet just below the surface, the Australia you know and love so well is still there... thriving. It's in the dust on the road and the stripped gums that line it. It's in the wry smiles of the Aussies you meet in every part of this land, and in the values that drive the Flying Doctor to connect us all... mateship, the fair go, heart, humour.

Leaving a gift to Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria in your Will is the perfect way to preserve all of that, to keep the Australia you love alive, still as relevant a generation into the future, as it was the day you were born.



## Our promises to you...

- We will respect the fact that your wishes and your loved ones come first.
- We will always treat anything you share with us as 100% private and confidential, and never share it with anyone else.
- We will use your lasting gift effectively and efficiently to provide quality Flying Doctor healthcare services to people who live remotely.
- We will remain transparent and accountable at all times, by answering any and all questions you may have about the use of your gift.
- We will give you the opportunity to connect with the work we do, and others who share your values and ideals.
- We fully respect your right to change your mind at any time. Your decision is yours alone and we understand that circumstances can change.

# How to *leave a gift in your Will...*

## Step 1

**Put your nearest and dearest first.** Leaving a gift in your Will is not a choice between the people you love or the causes you care about. It's about how you can help both the way you want. After providing for your nearest and dearest, whatever you choose to leave Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria will go on saving lives and helping people all over the country. Your lasting gift will keep the great Australian story you have been such an important part of alive.

## Step 2

**Think about the type of gift you'd like to leave.** There are a few different types of gifts you can leave to a cause you care about in your Will. The main three are detailed on the right of this page. All will make a life-changing difference. However, percentage or residual gifts are especially effective as they allow you to put your loved ones first, while maximising the impact of your lasting gift.

## Step 3

**Talk to your solicitor.** Your solicitor can draw up a Will for you, or update an existing Will if you have one, by adding a codicil. It's very easy to do. We have enclosed a wording guide to help your solicitor include Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria in your Will. You can also download a pdf version at [www.rfdsvic.org.au/legacywording](http://www.rfdsvic.org.au/legacywording). While we would always advise you consult a solicitor, you may prefer to create your own will online at [www.willed.com.au/rfds](http://www.willed.com.au/rfds).

## Step 4

**Let your loved ones know.** You don't have to of course, it's your Will, but telling your loved ones that you've included a gift to the Flying Doctor in your Will, means there won't be any surprises down the road. Besides, you might inspire them to start thinking about their own Wills, and the legacy they can leave the Australia they love too.

## 3 types of gift

- 1 Percentage Gift** You simply state in your Will what percentage of your estate you would like to be left to Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria. Some people leave just a few percent, the average is around 7%. It's a clear and simple way to leave a gift to a cause that reflects your personal values, without negatively impacting your loved ones.
- 2 Residual Gift** After your loved ones have been taken care of, and all costs have been dealt with, you can leave the remaining – or residual – portion of your estate to Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria.
- 3 Lump Sum** You simply declare the exact amount of money, or details of a specific asset, such as shares or a property, that you would like to leave to Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria in your Will.

## OUR BUSINESS DETAILS

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Australia  
(Victorian Section)

**ABN 71 004 196 230**



## We'd love the chance to Thank you...

**Nothing makes us happier than being able to say a proper thank you to someone who has decided to take their place in the great Australian story by leaving a gift to Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria in their Will.**

However we can't thank you if you don't let us know.

That said, we completely understand that some people prefer anonymity. And it goes without saying that we honour such humility and would never ask you to inform us of anything you wish not to.

The choice is entirely yours, but if you would like to inform us that you have left a gift to Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria in your Will – you can do so by using the form we've enclosed for you entitled 'My Gift in Will Plan'.



## *...and recognise you* for the part you play.

**Everyone who lets us know that they've included a gift in their Will to Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria will receive these exclusive benefits:**

- A Welcome Pack containing a special gift from the Flying Doctor.
- Special invitations to exclusive events for Gifts in Wills supporters like you.
- Official acknowledgement of gratitude from the Royal Flying Doctor Service Victoria for making such a lasting and impactful decision.

Just our way of recognising your faith in our history, your extraordinary commitment to the future of the Flying Doctor, and the part we can all play together in the next chapter of the great Australian story.

## Thank you!

*Keep the great  
Australian story  
alive forever*

with a gift to the  
Flying Doctor in your Will.

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[www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/support-us/leave-bequest/](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/support-us/leave-bequest/)

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Australia (Victorian Section)

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Royal Flying Doctor Service

