murdoch
children's
research
institute
Be here for
tomorrow's children
With a gift for future research in your Will

When a child comes into this world, we hope the very best for their future – one where they can laugh, play and reach their full potential.

Yet every day, families hear heartbreaking news that will change their world forever.

At the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, we're proud to have been making discoveries since 1986 that have saved many children's lives and improved millions more around the world. Because, like you, we want every child to grow to reach their full potential.

And we know that more discoveries are vital to save and improve children's lives in the future.

That's why we're deeply humbled by the kindness of people who include a gift in their Will for us.

Whatever the size, every single gift is precious and means we can build on the knowledge of today to save children's lives for generations to come.

Welcome to our vision

It is a joy and a privilege to lead such a remarkable institution. Thanks to the generosity of people who support us, we continue to be the foremost child health research institute in Australia and in the top five in the world.

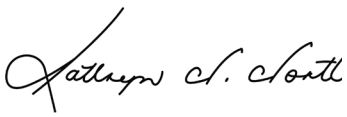
One of the truly unique aspects of MCRI is our close collaboration across the Melbourne Children's Campus. In fact many of our talented team of researchers are also doctors at the Royal Children's Hospital where we are based.

The questions we ask in our research come directly from problems we see children face each day – and because we're based here, our discoveries also very quickly become life-changing treatments for children in hospital and in the community.

My driving ambition as Director of MCRI is to give every child the chance to live a healthy and fulfilled life. One way you can help us reach this goal is to include a gift for MCRI in your Will. I hope that you will consider supporting us in this way.

Please do get in touch using the response form at the back of this guide. We can answer your questions and help if you would like your gift to be spent in an area that is special to you. You can also arrange to come and see what we do first hand – I hope you'll be as excited about what we can achieve together as I am.

With kind regards,



Professor Kathryn North AM **BSC(Med) MBBS MD FRACP**
Director

Professor Kathryn North
in the MCRI labs

"When I was young, conditions like polio and small pox were the big health issues, now you hardly hear of them thanks to tremendous advances in medical research."

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE
Late founding patron

The story of MCRI

More than 30 years ago, two caring people shared a vision of a better future for our children. And together they achieved remarkable things.

Professor David Danks was a much-loved doctor who wanted to learn more about the genetic reasons why his young patients suffered so much.

Professor Danks dreamed of building a world-class genetic research institute and Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, at a time when the science was still very new, had the foresight and compassion to support it.

Since then, MCRI has become Australia's leading charity dedicated to saving children's lives through research – and our discoveries are improving the lives of children and families around the world today.

Meet our ambassadors

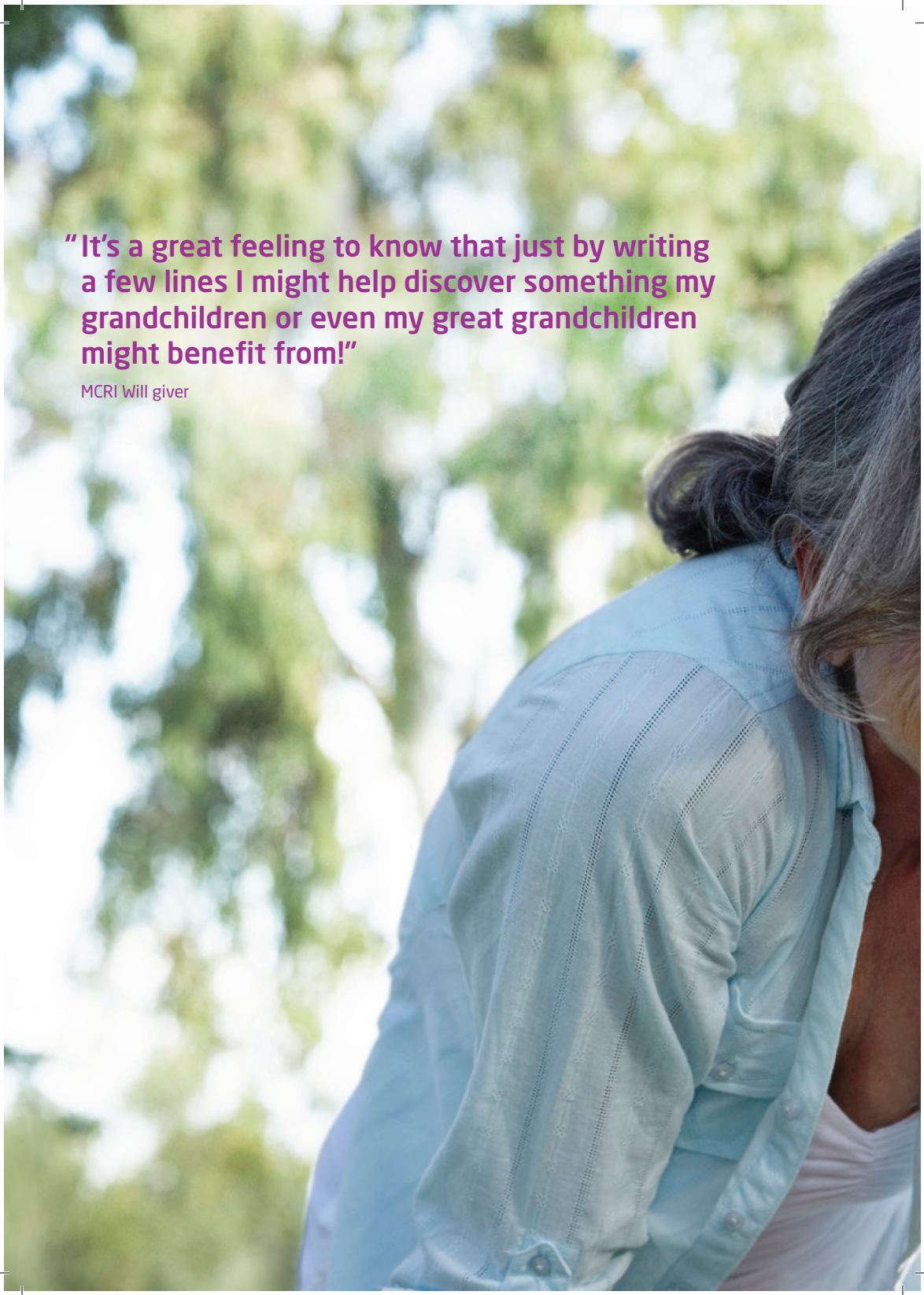
A growing group of people share our values and help to make our vision a reality.

"Breakthroughs rarely just happen quickly or out of the blue. They are the result of years and often decades of hard work. Small incremental steps, unspectacular quiet dedication and slow progress. But if you look at where we are today, it is an incredibly exciting picture."

The Honorable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO
Former Governor-General of Australia and MCRI supporter

"The Institute was a big part of my life for four decades. I feel privileged to have seen so many life-saving medical advances, but I know there's still so much more we can do. As a grandfather, the future health and welfare of all children in the community is important to me."

Laurence Cox AO
Former Director and Chairman



"It's a great feeling to know that just by writing a few lines I might help discover something my grandchildren or even my great grandchildren might benefit from!"

MCRI Will giver

"I really feel that I've been very fortunate in my life and this is just my way of paying back..."

MCRI Will giver

"The thought of any child in pain tugs at the heart strings."

MCRI Will giver

Ways to give

Just a small percentage of your estate could make an incredible difference to sick children around the world who need your help.

We are extremely grateful for all gifts left to us in Wills, whatever the size. Every single one helps us make more vital discoveries.

Different types of gifts you can leave are:

1. A residuary gift (a share of your estate)
After you have provided for your loved ones you can chose to leave part of what is left to MCRI – from one percent to 100 percent. This type of gift will not be affected by inflation and is the most valuable way to give to us in your Will or;

2. A pecuniary gift (a set sum of money)
This is a gift of a specific dollar amount from your estate. You should be aware that the value of this gift may change significantly over time due to inflation or;

3. A specific gift (a named item)
A named item such as a residential house, commercial real estate or company shares. You can even name MCRI as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or superannuation or;

4. Other gifts
We recommend talking to a solicitor if you're interested in other types of gifts such as gifts in trusts, life interests and conditional gifts. It is important to get the wording for these gifts correct so that your wishes may be carried out as you would like.

You might be surprised to know the incredible impact that just a small percentage of your estate can have.

Government and other grant making bodies tend to support established research. That makes the gifts that we receive from people's Wills even more vital so we can bring innovative research ideas to life.

Wording for your Will

Below is the most effective wording to include a gift in your Will for MCRI. A copy of this wording is included at the back of this guide to take with you when you visit your solicitor.

"I give [(a) my whole estate; or (b) the residue (or percentage of the residue) of my estate; or (c) $(amount); or (d) a specific item] to the Murdoch Children's Research Institute ABN 21 006 566 972 of 50 Flemington Road, Parkville VIC 3052 for its general purposes. The receipt of the treasurer, secretary or public officer for the time being of a beneficiary under this provision is a sufficient discharge to my executors/trustees in respect of a gift to that beneficiary and I declare that my executors/trustees shall not be responsible for seeing to the application of that gift."

A gift for our general research work means that we can focus on the very best projects that will make a difference to the lives of children. If you would like your gift to go towards a specific type of research, please contact us to discuss your ideas before you see your solicitor.

We want to hear from you

If you do choose to remember MCRI in your Will or have any further questions, please contact **Nelita de Vos**, MCRI's **Gift in Wills Manager** on **0420 987 002** or at **nelita.devos@mcri.edu.au**

Already have a Will?

If you already have a Will it's simple to add a gift to MCRI with a 'codicil'. Just take a copy of our Will wording with you when you visit your solicitor and they can simply update your existing Will.

Ways you help change child health

Gifts in Wills are vital so that we have the funding we need for cutting-edge projects that will transform the health of our children in the future.

We search for the answers in many ways – down microscopes, in data, in the health of whole communities. We also study how sick children are diagnosed and treated.

And the world-leading genetic testing we offer means less suffering for families with undiagnosed conditions – so they can get the answers they desperately need.

Our discoveries are turned into better preventions, treatments and cures for health issues such as:

- Allergy & immune disorders
- Anaesthesia
- Antibiotic resistance
- Arthritis & Rheumatology
- Asthma & Eczema
- Autism & ADHD
- Brain injury
- Cancer
- Cerebral palsy
- Childhood stroke
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes
- Emergency medicine
- Genetic & rare diseases
- Heart conditions
- Infectious diseases
- Kidney disease & development
- Maternal & adolescent health
- Mental health
- Muscular dystrophy
- Neurodevelopment
- Obesity
- Premature birth
- Reading and literacy
- Skeletal biology

We don't just focus on one childhood condition. In fact we have around 400 research projects at any one time so we can turn our attention to serious health needs as they appear.

"It is a wonderful feeling that we have made a difference finally. That's what medical research is all about. We all want to make a difference."
Professor Mimi Tang whose 10 year study of peanut allergies has led to a life-changing treatment.

Progress made possible by you

When our children are sick, we trust that the doctors will know what to do. We can sometimes forget that past research discoveries have made this possible.

It can take years or even decades of hard work to find the answers to complex problems.

With your help we've made many great discoveries. Below are just a few that we're very proud of:

- Growing mini-kidneys from stem cells for the first time in the world so we can test if new kidney disease treatments will be safe for children
- Developing a life changing treatment for children with peanut allergies
- Discovering rotavirus and creating a life saving vaccine for newborn babies in developing countries with the potential to save half a million lives a year
- Developing blood stem cells that will revolutionise treatment for blood cancers like leukaemia

Our team of more than 1,500 researchers are making a difference to the lives of millions of children around the world each year.

Meet someone who will change the future

It is hardworking, everyday people like Mr Les Nash who kindly think of how they can improve life for the next generation when they make their Will.

"I try to be as independent as I can and not rely on other people, that's what I always wanted – to show that I could do just as good as the bloke next to me," says MCRI supporter Mr Nash.

Born with achondroplasia, the most common type of dwarfism, Mr Nash remembers frequent visits to hospital as a child. But it wasn't until much later in life that he began to experience debilitating back pain that forced him to have a series of major surgeries. Unfortunately the operations did not stop his suffering for very long.

MCRI researchers are now trialing treatments that may avoid the need to operate on patients with achondroplasia in the future – and the results to date are very encouraging.

"It's about minimising the medical complications of this condition with a targeted therapy, rather than making people with dwarfism taller," says Professor Ravi Savarirayan.

If this research continues to prove effective, hundreds of thousands of children around the world could benefit.

This is something that sits well with Mr Nash. "I've been through the hard part so I can make it a little bit easier for the young ones coming up. It's not going to be easy for them but you can give them the chance to make it easier."

"I would like to see research that helps people in the future," says Mr Nash." It's just my way of helping."

"I'm fortunate at this stage of my life to be able to help and I'll do what I can."

"It's about minimising the medical complications of this condition with a targeted therapy, rather than making people with dwarfism taller."

Professor Ravi Savarirayan

Thank you

Thank you for thinking about this very special gift. Life-changing discoveries take time and visionary support – by people who can look to the future and imagine a better, healthier and happier world for every child.

We understand that making your Will can be a personal matter. It can take time and consideration to decide what's important to you. Discuss your thoughts with your loved ones first and if you have questions, please get in touch.

You can fill in your response form at the back of this guide and return it to us using the Reply Paid envelope included or for a confidential conversation, contact our Will Giving Adviser:

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Parkville, Victoria 3052 Australia

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W mcri.edu.au/bequest

We would be delighted to arrange a free tour of the Institute and can help if you would like your gift to be spent in an area that is special to you.

And if you do choose to remember MCRI in your Will we would love the chance to thank you and keep you connected to the life-changing work that you will make possible.

Thank you once again for considering this very special gift.

Thank you for sharing our vision of a future where every child has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilled life.

For more than 30 years, people who care about children have remembered us in their Wills and made some amazing discoveries possible. Our breakthroughs have seen more children survive and thrive but too many families still know what it's like to have a sick child.

We hope that you will consider this very special gift – the children of the future need caring people like you behind them.

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