



# Include a Charity.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OLDER AUSSIES ARE MORE PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE**

**- INCLUDE A CHARITY ASKS ALL AUSTRALIANS TO MAKE A WILL -**

**21 April 2010 (Sydney)** – When it comes to thinking of the future, the over 60's lead the way by being far more prepared than younger generations. According to new research commissioned by Include A Charity, almost a quarter (24%) of 45-59 year olds don't have Wills, compared to only six per cent of those aged over 60.\* In order to ensure people are considering their future, Include a Charity is encouraging Australians of all ages to make a Will and discuss their intentions with their loved ones.

*“As much as we don't want to think about our own mortality, Australians must draft a Will if they want a say in what happens to their estate. No matter your age or the amount you own, ensuring your Will is accurate gives you the freedom to allocate your belongings to whom you wish. People who die without one have no say in who inherits their assets. If a person does die without a Will, their belongings are distributed by a court-appointed administer, to the legal next of kin,”* says Michael Perkins, Special Counsel and Include a Charity ambassador.

There are circumstances in which families can contest the Will of a loved one. Avoid acrimony and ensure your wishes are carried out, by communicating your intentions to loved ones, ahead of time. According to new research, over three quarters (77%)\* of people aged 60 or over who have written Wills have also told their families how they have divided up the inheritance. This will help them to process and understand your decisions about the division of your estate, avoiding any disputes or contests after your death. Consider changing circumstances and make sure any revisions are reflected in your Will by keeping it up-to-date. Legislation concerning Wills varies from state to state and country to country, so it is vital to consider these aspects if you move away from the location in which the original Will was written.

*“Although families and loved ones have the ability to contest a Will, this can become a lengthy, stressful and upsetting process. The simplest way to avoid further distress of your loved ones after your death is to ensure your Will is accurate and up-to-date,”* says Perkins

Eliza Fettes, Director of Marketing and Corporate Partnerships, Cancer Council Australia, comments; *“People need to provide for their families first and foremost, however charities play an important role in many lives, and some Australians do decide to include a gift of money or leave assets to charity. Including a charity in your Will is a profound gift, and a lovely way to be remembered, so if this is something you'd like to do make sure your Will is set out correctly. Considering your family first, and discussing this decision with them, will help them understand your wishes and share in the gift”.*

Bequests (gifts of money and assets) are a crucial source of funding for vital charitable programs that address some of the major societal issues, both locally and internationally. All bequests, no matter their size or worth, are vital to ensuring Australian charities can continue their work.

**- Ends -**



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## Notes to Editors

\* Instinct & Reason Consumer Research commissioned by Include a Charity

\*\*Sourced from Genesis Creative

**About Include a Charity** - Include a Charity is a non-profit working group of some of Australia's leading charities united in their commitment to increase the number of people including charitable bequests in their Wills. The three member charities are the Heart Foundation, Cancer Council Australia and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

The mandate of Include a Charity is to increase awareness of the importance of charitable bequests and instigate behavioural change resulting in more Australians including a gift to charity in their Wills.

Include a Charity has free information packs about Wills and bequests. If you would like to order an information pack or have any questions please call 1800 400 300 or visit [www.includeacharity.com.au](http://www.includeacharity.com.au)

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