



Education creates better  *futures*.

Your bequest will change the lives of disadvantaged Australian children.

[thesmithfamily.com.au](https://thesmithfamily.com.au)



*everyone's family*

# Children are Australia's future



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for thinking about including The Smith Family in your Will. We would like you to know that your bequest can make a positive difference for generations of Australian children to come.

We believe that every child deserves a chance. Yet, through no fault of their own, thousands of disadvantaged Australian children are isolated, vulnerable and falling behind at school. Lacking the early learning support they need, disadvantaged children are often behind on key skills such as reading. It's hard to catch up and as each year goes by they're at risk of falling further and further behind. Without the support of caring others, they are likely to disengage with their education altogether and go on to become disadvantaged adults.

**Education transforms lives, not just minds. It opens doors and gives children in need the skills to be the best they can be.**

For over 90 years The Smith Family has been helping disadvantaged Australian families. From our years of experience and research we know that supporting a child's education is the best way to help them break the cycle of disadvantage. But it's not a short term fix. Our support is long-term and holistic, throughout the education of a disadvantaged child.

When you choose to include The Smith Family in your Will, you'll be giving disadvantaged Australian children the same chances as their more privileged peers. Importantly your gift will give them the opportunity to realise their potential.

I have chosen to leave a gift in my Will that will help disadvantaged Australian children get the most out of their education so they can make the best of their lives. I invite you to join me. Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Dr Lisa O'Brien**  
Chief Executive Officer

“The children of today are the future of our nation. But not all children are born equal. If we can help disadvantaged children to get the learning opportunities they need to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we can help them break the cycle of disadvantage that threatens their futures. I believe every child should be able to fully participate in their education, because empowerment through education will create better lifelong outcomes. Ultimately this will shape a better future for all Australians. That's why I included The Smith Family in my Will. What better legacy could I leave?”

**Dr Lisa O'Brien**

# A gift of education that will last a lifetime

Children don't grow out of disadvantage. Without support, the disadvantage they face today will follow them into adulthood. Education empowers children in need to change their lives.



“It’s easy to talk about your future with an adult you don’t know. The best advice my mentor gave me was to believe in myself and gain confidence to achieve anything I want to achieve.”

Mikaela, aged 16, *iTrack* participant.

## Why leave a bequest?

After you’ve taken care of your loved ones, including a charity in your Will can be a simple and effective way to make a lasting difference.

Your bequest will give disadvantaged Australian children the learning opportunities they need to fully participate in their education. Research shows that this is how the cycle of disadvantage is broken, creating a better future for Australia.

## How your gift will make a lasting difference

Our learning support and mentoring programs provide disadvantaged children with practical and emotional support outside the classroom, helping them to develop the skills and confidence they need to stay engaged with their education.

### Your gift will help a disadvantaged child to get the support they need to make the most of their education.

Some of our programs include:

- **student2student:** an 18-week reading program for primary school students struggling to read.
- **Learning Clubs:** supportive after-school environments where disadvantaged students get help from trained volunteer tutors who help them with their school work.
- **iTrack:** a 19-week career mentoring program for disadvantaged young people in Years 9-11, aiming to expand their horizons about post-school options and careers.

# Learning programs give children in need a chance

It's hard to imagine Australian children growing up without the fundamentals of reading and writing. But for siblings Isabelle, 14, Kayla, 12, and Jacob, 8\*, that's exactly what happened. With a seriously ill mother who was illiterate herself, the children's focus was on cooking, cleaning and caring for their mum. And their education fell by the wayside.

*"Because their mother was constantly sick, the children didn't worry about homework; didn't worry about school work; didn't worry about learning how to read or anything like that,"* says foster mum, Karen.

Years of living in disadvantage hadn't just affected the children's ability to learn, it had also left them ostracised at school.

*"They didn't have any friends. They were seen as second-class children really, because they couldn't read and write ... and they didn't have nice shoes or nice anything."*

When the siblings came to her less than a year ago, Karen knew she urgently needed support to help the children catch up at school. She contacted The Smith Family and the children were enrolled in the *student2student* peer reading program and a *Learning Club* to receive one-to-one assistance with their homework from trained volunteer tutors.

## Program support is helping them believe and belong

With Karen's guidance and ongoing support through our learning programs, the children's attitudes towards school have completely changed.

*"They've received achievement awards because they've moved up to the next level of reading and things like that. They're very proud and very comfortable and very happy now. They can see the importance of education. They can see the importance of learning,"* she says.

Perhaps even more uplifting for Karen is the transformation she has seen in the children's sense of self-worth.

*"They feel like they're normal people now. They feel like they're not excluded from activities and things at school ... because of their inability. They're making friends now, because they're not just labelled the dummies or the poor or stupid ones."* Karen, foster mum.



## Learning support changes lives

- **student2student:** 93% of participants improved their reading age.
- **Learning Clubs:** Over 3,700 students attended last year.
- **iTrack:** 88% of students felt more confident that they could achieve their career goals.

Left: Volunteer and VIEW Club member, Diane, helps kids with their school work at an after-school Learning Club

## Now they have aspirations for the future

Receiving the learning support they had been missing in their home environment has helped the children to thrive. They are beginning to realise what they are capable of and, for the first time, have even started building aspirations for the future.

*“Isabelle is 14. When I first met her she was going to leave me in four years’ time and go home and look after Mum. You ask her now and she wants to be a beautician ... They’re looking to the future for things they feel now are achievable, whereas she never saw herself working before,” says Karen.*

Karen is overjoyed that her foster children now have the chances to overcome the disadvantage that would otherwise have robbed them of their futures. And she is so grateful to Smith Family supporters for making our vital learning support programs possible.

*“These children have never been of the opinion that they could achieve anything. You’re giving them the ability to think, dream and achieve far beyond their means and what they thought was possible. It’s a real gift.”*

If you choose to include The Smith Family in your Will, your gift will help thousands more disadvantaged Australian children like Isabelle, Kayla and Jacob get the chances to create a better future though participating in our learning support and mentoring programs. Thank you!

\*All names have been changed to protect the privacy of these children.

# How to word your bequest

Thank you for considering leaving a bequest to The Smith Family in your Will. Your Will is an important document that will ensure your assets are distributed in accordance with your wishes. Below you will find an example of wording for a bequest. However we recommend that you consult a solicitor before writing or updating your Will.

## Options for leaving a bequest

There are two main ways to include a bequest in your Will:

- A specified amount: If you'd like to make a specific bequest then simply state the dollar amount in your Will that you wish to leave to The Smith Family.
- A residuary bequest: For this option you can bequeath the remainder, or a percentage, of your estate once your loved ones and expenses have been taken care of.



*“Mum passed away a few years ago. Up until the day she died, she told me that if she ever came into money, she would like to donate some to The Smith Family. Which is basically what I did. It was Mum’s wish.”*

– Chris, who was supported by The Smith Family in his childhood and arranged a \$10,000 gift from his mother’s estate.

## Legal wording for your bequest

The following standard wording can be included in your Will:

*“I bequeath to The Smith Family ... (the amount of money; the percentage or residue of your estate; or the details of your property or shares). **My bequest is to be used for the general purposes of The Smith Family.** I declare that the receipt of the Secretary or other proper officer shall be a complete discharge of my bequest.”*

For bequests for a defined purpose such as support for a specific Community Program (for example *Learning for Life*), or for use within a specific region, the wording in red above can be replaced with the following (or similar):

*‘My bequest is to be used to support the Learning for Life program. If at the time of my death the program is no longer operating, then my bequest is to be used for the general purposes of The Smith Family.’*

You may also require the following information:

- The Smith Family ABN: 28 000 030 179
- Registered address: The Smith Family, Level 9, 117 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000

# FAQs – Your questions answered

## **Why is having a Will so important?**

Without a Will, your assets will be distributed according to state law. By having a Will you can ensure that your assets are distributed in accordance with your wishes so your loved ones and charities of choice are provided for.

## **How do I include a bequest in my Will?**

Please see the page opposite for details on the different options for including a bequest in your Will and suggested wording. We recommend that you consult a solicitor when preparing your Will.

## **What can I leave as a bequest?**

A bequest is a gift left in your Will. A financial gift will help us make the greatest impact on the lives of children in need. You can leave this as a specified amount in your Will or as a residuary gift, such as a percentage of your estate or the remainder of your estate once your loved ones have been taken care of.

You can also make a bequest in the form of shares, property or material gifts. We suggest speaking to a solicitor who can guide you in the most suitable bequest for your circumstances.

## **Can I leave conditions about how the bequest is used?**

Your bequest will help us provide vital learning support and mentoring programs to give disadvantaged Australian children the chances they deserve.

Leaving a general gift enables us to direct your generous support to the area of greatest need at that time. If you would like to direct your gift to a specific program or region, please refer to the wording on the opposite page.

## **Do I need to let The Smith Family know about my bequest intentions?**

While it is not necessary, we do appreciate it when our supporters let us know about their intended bequest. This helps us plan for the future and gives us the opportunity to pass on our thanks for your generosity. You can do this using the attached form, or by calling us on **1800 024 069**.

## **Should I tell my loved ones of my intentions?**

This is a personal decision for you to make, but we do suggest letting your family know of your wishes ahead of time. And please rest assured that all information about your bequest will be treated confidentially by The Smith Family.

## **Other questions?**

If you have any other questions, we would like to hear from you. Please contact our Supporter Care Team on **1800 024 069** or via email at **supportercare@thesmithfamily.com.au**

## We make every dollar count

With a bequest to The Smith Family, you'll know your legacy will have the greatest impact on helping disadvantaged Australian children transform their lives through education.

For over 90 years we've been making every dollar count. Last year 86 cents of every dollar raised was spent directly on our community programs helping Australian children in need. Our vital support reached 112,000 Australian children and their families in 96 communities.

Thank you for your support. Together we can help disadvantaged Australian children create a better future.



## Your bequest will give children in need a chance

"I want you to know that without your help many children like me would drop out of school earlier and not accomplish the things I have been able to. You have given me a sense of hope and the ability to finish what I started!" – Tegan, aged 17, supported by The Smith Family.

[thesmithfamily.com.au](http://thesmithfamily.com.au)

Email: [supportercare@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:supportercare@thesmithfamily.com.au)

Phone: **1800 024 069**

Mail: **The Smith Family**  
**GPO Box 10500, Sydney NSW 2001**

Join us on



*everyone's family*



# A legacy that will help children in need shape the future



*everyone's family*

Thank you for considering including a bequest to The Smith Family in your Will. Your legacy will give disadvantaged Australian children a chance, so they can create a better future.

Please complete and return this form to notify us of your bequest intentions. Knowing of your intention will help us plan for the future. All information about your bequest intentions will be treated in the strictest confidence. Thank you for your generosity.

## Please tick the appropriate box:

- I have included The Smith Family in my Will
- I intend to include The Smith Family in my Will

## Your contact details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporter ID (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: Home (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## What happens next?

If you inform us of your intention to leave a bequest to The Smith Family, we would like to keep you informed about the lasting impact your bequest will make.

When you notify us of your bequest intentions, you'll receive:

- A letter acknowledging your pledge to include The Smith Family in your Will.
- A Program Profile from one of the students benefitting from the learning support programs your bequest will make possible.
- Two newsletters per year, with firsthand stories from the students and families we support.

And of course if you wish to change your communications preferences at any time, you can contact our Supporter Care Team.