

# Your gift can change a life



Sight lost, freedom found.

## Gifts in Wills

# A gift in your Will to Guide Dogs will **transform lives**

Every day nine Australians are told that they will become blind. For a person who is blind or has sight loss, one of the most life-changing events will be when they receive a Guide Dog.

The transformation of a puppy into a Guide Dog is remarkable and the difference they make to their handler is truly amazing. A gift in your Will could guarantee independence and freedom for people with sight loss long into the future.

With only 10% of our funding needs coming from the Government, gifts in Wills have helped thousands of Australians with sight loss to live a life that they choose.

Our services are provided at no charge to any person who needs them and we rely on the generous support of people like you to continue providing our vital services.

Two out of every three Guide Dogs are made possible thanks to people who have included a gift in their Will.



Pamela's Guide Dog journey has been made possible thanks to a gift left in a Will by one of our **generous supporters whose name was also Pamela.**

# The gift of a **Guide Dog**

Have you ever wondered just how much a Guide Dog can transform someone's life?

Imagine not being able to see your family or friends, and having to rely on other people whenever you wanted to go out? The world could be a very scary place, where even the simplest activity may present as an insurmountable challenge.

When Liz began to lose her sight at the age of 33, it left her feeling anxious, uncertain and alone.

It's only through a generous gift that a supporter left to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT in their Will that Guide Dog Poppi was matched with Liz.

Now with her beloved Poppi by her side, Liz is no longer afraid to leave her house or catch public transport; simple tasks that we all take for granted.

The stories of people like Jo, Liz, Chrissie and Lachlan (find out more about their stories in the enclosed DVD), whose lives have been transformed forever, are just four of the more than 4,000 we encounter every year.



“**Poppi** has really, really changed how I feel in the world.” **Liz, client**

## The costs are great...



Our puppies are bred for the behaviours and temperament needed to become successful Guide Dogs, but first they need to grow up a bit and experience the big wide world.

It takes two years  
and costs **\$50,000 to breed,  
raise and train every Guide Dog.**

So at 8 to 10 weeks, each puppy leaves the Guide Dogs Centre to live with a volunteer puppy raiser until they are 12 to 14 months old.

During this time, the puppy raiser teaches basic obedience skills and introduces the puppy to the sights, sounds and smells it is likely to encounter as a working Guide Dog.



...the rewards are **priceless**



Over five months they work with a specialist Guide Dog Trainer learning to avoid obstacles and hazards, stopping to indicate change of surface such as kerbs and obeying commands. This brings out their natural guiding ability and increases their confidence.

**At about 14 months,** puppies return to the Guide Dogs Centre for their specialised Guide Dog training.

Following graduation, each Guide Dog is carefully matched with their handler. Our skilled Guide Dog Mobility Instructors consider the personality, physicality, age, location and lifestyle of the handler.

Together the handler and Guide Dog will do some post graduate training to complete the **transformation from one person and one dog to a very special Guide Dog partnership based on mutual trust and loyalty.**



## Pets as Therapy dog Kody helps bring Lachlan out of his shell

Not all dogs that undertake training meet the high standards required to become a Guide Dog. They may demonstrate behavioural traits better suited to our Pets as Therapy program. This program makes a huge difference in the lives of people who may be disadvantaged due to illness, disability or isolation.

This is something Janine witnessed first-hand when her son Lachlan, who was born blind, received his special four-legged friend, Kody, from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.

Janine said Kody had a huge effect on both Lachlan and the family. Pets as Therapy dogs contribute to sensory and physical development and enhance confidence and self esteem. In particular, having Kody has helped Lachlan with his speech and social skills.

“Before we had Kody, Lachlan had limited speech. **Now all he talks about is his dog.**”

Janine applied for a Pets as Therapy dog for Lachlan to help prepare him for the future.



“I would love Lachlan **to have a Guide Dog** in the future.” **Janine, Lachlan’s Mum**



## Including a **life-changing** gift in your Will

A gift in your Will can make a life-long difference to someone who is blind or has sight loss.

There are many ways to include us in your Will and it is advisable to seek legal advice when preparing your Will.

Three of the easiest options to include a gift are:

- **The residue** – a gift of whatever is left after you have taken care of your loved ones
- **A percentage** – often regarded as one of the most flexible ways to give, as the amount adjusts and accounts for inflation or changes to your total assets.
- **Fixed amount** – a specific sum which may need to be changed over the years to account for inflation and changes to your circumstances.

It is essential that Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is correctly named in your Will. The form of wording overleaf is provided for you to consider and take along to your solicitor. If you have any questions please call **Sally Biles on (02) 9412 9319**.

If you are kindly remembering us in your Will, please tell us as we would love to thank you and invite you to special Guide Dogs events. If you would like your name inscribed in our **Daisy Foundation Honour Roll**, please complete the form at the end of this booklet and return it to us in the reply paid envelope.

“My involvement with Guide Dogs is something that **makes me proud every day**. I like the idea that in the future, **my gift will continue to help people** who have impaired vision.” **Colin, client and bequestor**

# Suggested wording to include in your Will

I give to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT  
(ABN 52 000 399 744)

- The rest and residue of my Estate, or
- \_\_\_\_ percent of my Estate, or
- \_\_\_\_ percent of the residue of my Estate, or
- The sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

free of all duties and testamentary expenses for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of that organisation shall be sufficient discharge to my executors for this bequest.

Please watch our short DVD to see how a Guide Dog is a truly life-changing gift, a gift only made possible because of people like you...



**The Daisy Foundation** was established in 1995 to honour and acknowledge the generosity of people who have remembered Guide Dogs NSW/ACT in their Will.

## The Daisy Foundation

Please return to:

**Sally Biles** General Manager,  
Planned Giving  
Guide Dogs NSW/ACT  
PO Box 1965  
North Sydney, NSW 2059

I wish to advise that a gift to  
Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is included  
in my Will, and as an honorary  
member of the Daisy Foundation;

I would like to have my  
name inscribed in the **Daisy  
Foundation Honour Roll** as  
follows:

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I would prefer not to have my  
name entered in the **Daisy  
Foundation Honour Roll**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## Thank you

If you have any  
questions please  
contact our Planned  
Giving team.

All conversations will be  
treated in confidence  
and with sensitivity.



Sight lost, freedom found.

**Guide Dogs NSW/ACT**

ABN 52 000 399 744

2-4 Thomas St, Chatswood NSW 2067

**02 9412 9319**

[daisy@guidedogs.com.au](mailto:daisy@guidedogs.com.au)