

Extended Families  
Australia seeks to give  
children with a disability  
and their families an  
opportunity to develop  
a loving and caring  
'grandparent' or  
'extended family'  
relationship with a  
supportive volunteer

Creating  
Opportunities  
Through  
Friendship



**extended  
families**  
australia

supporting families  
of children with a disability

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How to Make a  
Bequest to Extended  
Families Australia in  
Your Will



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## 1. The importance of making a will

It is important for every adult who owns assets to have an up-to-date will. This is so that our hard won assets can be distributed after our death according to our intentions for the benefit of the people and organisations we care about. Without a will, assets are distributed by law in a way which may not be what we wanted. Being unclear about how assets should be distributed after death can also lead to problems, family disputes, and unnecessary expense.

## 2. What is a bequest?

A bequest is simply a gift made in your will. You can make bequests to individuals, associations or charities. A bequest to a charity enables you to continue supporting those causes you care about after your death, and provides valuable and valued assistance to those organisations.

## 3. How does Extended Families Australia (EFA) help children with disabilities and their families in the community?

The support offered by a volunteer grandparent through EFA makes an enormous difference to the quality of life of that child and their family.

EFA's work is to find mature volunteers in the community who care about children, enjoy their company and have some free time, and carefully match them with a family that has a child with a disability where that family needs some extra support.

For example, many children with a disability miss out on the opportunities available to other children, because there is no one available to take the extra time that is often needed to enable them to engage in activities they enjoy. These activities might range from outdoor pursuits such as playing in the park to sitting at home listening to music or a story.

EFA volunteers spend regular time each week with the child and their family, building up a very special relationship with the child. The main part of the volunteer's role is to be a real friend to the child, in a similar way that many children find in their own grandparents. The volunteer gives the child the gift of time, and engages in activities that both the child and volunteer enjoy. They also provide families with a much needed break from the demands of caring for a child with a disability.

The staff at EFA offer on-going support to the volunteers and families and also provide opportunities for the volunteers to meet regularly to discuss relevant matters of interest to them. In this way, many needs of older people in the community are also met.

Recruiting volunteers, arranging matches and supporting them all take time and expertise. The cost of employing staff and meeting expenses such as rent and travel is where the bulk of expenditure for EFA is needed.

## 4. How a bequest can assist EFA

EFA relies on non-Government funding to thrive, plan for the future and grow.

One of the most helpful ways for EFA to achieve future stability and growth is to establish a pool of money through bequests by supporters of EFA. This money is invested and the proceeds directly benefit children with disabilities and their families.

If one of the causes you care about is EFA, you may consider making a bequest to us after providing for your family and loved ones. EFA have a large waiting list of families requesting support. Additional funds will enable more children and families to have the support they need.

## 5. How to make a bequest to EFA

If you do not already have a will, you can prepare one at any time. Your will should be kept up to date and your latest will always takes effect over earlier ones. If you already have a will that sets out your current intentions you can easily amend it to include a bequest to EFA. The simplest way to do this is to prepare a Codicil, which is a short, simple document that adds extra provisions to your existing will.

The following standard phrase can be used in your will or Codicil to make a gift or bequest to EFA:

"I give and bequeath to Extended Families Australia Inc. the sum of \$..... (or .....% of my estate) to be used for its general purposes".

EFA strongly recommends that you prepare your will or Codicil with the assistance of a legal adviser who is able to provide you with expert and impartial advice. This will help to avoid problems following your death, and ensure that your assets are distributed as you intend.

## 6. Any Questions?

If you have any questions about EFA or how to make a bequest, you are very welcome to contact the Manager and discuss these matters on a strictly confidential basis. Your privacy will be fully respected at all times.

Should you decide to make a bequest to EFA, your decision will be deeply valued, not only by those currently involved with the organisation, but for those who will come in the future. Your generous gift will provide on-going support to those most in need.