

A guide to transforming the future
for people with multiple sclerosis



RESEARCH
AUSTRALIA



How a gift in your Will can

POWER MS RESEARCH

until MS has no power over lives

You have the power to create a future free from MS.

The contents of your Will reflect who you are, what you value, and the contribution you'd like to make to the world after you leave it.

I believe – in fact I know – that you will make a profound difference to thousands of Australians if you choose to support medical research into multiple sclerosis (MS) through a gift in your Will.

The power of medical research is extraordinary.

It has already dramatically changed the trajectory of MS.

More medical research, funded and fuelled by the compassion of people like you, will bring a final, complete end to MS and its power over people's lives.

Momentum is already building. We will find a cure and we will, one day, be able to reverse the effects of MS.

It really is just a matter of time, money, love – and you.

I hope you choose to change the world in this way. You have my promise that any gift you choose to leave to MS Research Australia will be used to make the most possible difference.



On behalf of every Australian affected by MS,
and every researcher working to end it, thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Morahan".

Dr Julia Morahan

Head of Research
Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia

“When I was diagnosed with MS, there were no treatments available. Nothing. I just had to let the disease run its natural course. Today there are all kinds of drugs that can help. That progress gives me hope that one day researchers will find a cure. I want my gift to play a part in that.”

- Pearl Champion





Dr Simon Murray and Dr Jessica Fletcher are working on a new frontier in MS research – promoting myelin repair in the brain to prevent MS from becoming worse. Your gift in Will could fund future breakthroughs in this exciting field of research – and give great hope to people living with advanced MS.

Medical research has been behind every significant advance in MS treatment and care.

People like you have been behind every breakthrough.

MS Research Australia is the only organisation of its kind in the country. We're solely dedicated to finding the cure and cause of MS, and developing treatments for everyone affected by it. Thanks to the generous support of people like you, and a relentless focus on medical research, we've made incredible progress. We've discovered life-changing treatments and are getting closer to a cure every day.

But there's still so much to do.

For some Australians living with MS, the symptoms are still going almost unchecked. Others can't plan their futures with confidence. And many live in fear of relapse or recurrence. Most concerning though, is that more Australians are diagnosed with MS every year. The vast majority of them are women.

Medical research has brought us so far already. So we're certain that, one day, we'll find a cure. By leaving a gift in your Will, you'll accelerate that progress, fast track the breakthroughs that'll have the most impact, and put a complete stop to MS. Forever.

With a gift in your Will, you'll fuel pioneering research into MS. And bring us closer to the day when we can:

- Treat every person living with MS, without exception.
- Stop the progress of MS, for good.
- Reverse MS and give back what people have lost.
- Prevent MS for those most likely to develop the disease.
- **Find a cure, and make MS a thing of the past.**

You can give people like Lauren freedom to **choose, plan and dream.**

Research into MS has come a long way in the last decade. After diagnosis, more people are living longer, fuller lives than ever before. But Lauren's story proves we still have a long way to go.

When she was just 25 years old, Lauren's neurologist broke the news: she had MS. Lauren was devastated. On the way back to the car with her mum, she burst into tears.

Soon afterwards, her treatment began. Her body rejected five consecutive therapies, and as the list of potential side effects grew longer and longer, Lauren became worried. She was afraid she would never be able to have children.

"It was all I'd ever wanted – ever since I was a kid in kindergarten and the teacher asked us all what we wanted to be when we grew up: I said, 'a mum'", Lauren remembered.

But Lauren was determined MS wouldn't take away her dream. Although she didn't have a partner, she had no time to lose. So with the support of her family, she made the bold step of starting IVF.

Lauren now has a beautiful baby boy named Bailey. But she's still living with MS, so uncertainty about her future (and Bailey's) is a large part of her life.

Your gift will help change that. You'll help create a world where nobody is limited by MS.

And by including MS Research Australia in your Will, you'll help power the search for cures and treatments for people just like Lauren – and give her and her family the future they deserve.



Australia is seeing a year-on-year increase in the number of women newly diagnosed with MS.

Your gift can help researchers find out why, and develop treatments that will allow young women like Lauren to get on with their lives, free from MS.

"I have always promised myself that I will never give up investigating the devastating disease that my grandfather lived with for most of his life."

- Dr Steven Petratos



For this researcher, **it's personal.**

After losing his grandad to MS, Dr Steven Petratos is determined to make sure no family experiences the same loss he did.

He's certain there are life-changing new MS treatments on the horizon – all we need is more research.

Right now, Dr Petratos is working on 'progressive MS'; the form of the disease with the fewest treatment options and the worst outcomes.

But Dr Petratos is dedicated. And thanks to his hard work, a new treatment may be just around the corner. To make it a reality, he needs more funding.

When you leave a gift in your Will, you'll be supporting tireless researchers like Dr Petratos and making sure their work never slows. You'll help build teams of the brightest minds in the world, and help focus all their energies on finding a cure.

And you'll make sure every breakthrough leads to another one, even bigger than the last.

Your gift will help beat MS, in so many ways, including:

- Helping researchers make the next big breakthrough.
- Providing seed funding for the most innovative scientific ideas.
- Supporting clinical trials to treat MS now, and pave the way for better treatments in the future.
- Sending Australian research global and enabling worldwide collaborations.
- Providing scholarships to the brightest up-and-coming researchers, with the freshest thinking.

"I hope my gift will achieve a positive change in the future for other people diagnosed with MS."

- Meg McIntyre

Meg was a talented hockey player, and at the peak of her career as a Sports Physiotherapist, when she was diagnosed with MS.

At first, the disease didn't slow her down.

She continued to work as a physio for the Australian Women's Hockey and Cricket teams. She kept up with her hockey, snow skiing and athletics. She even cycled across China to raise funds for people living with MS.

But over the years, MS has gradually taken away more of Meg's energy and mobility. She retired last year and today often needs a cane to walk.



"As time has gone by, I don't have the same energy for fundraising.

So I decided to leave a gift in my Will to make a difference.

Ultimately, I hope we can predict MS before it happens, as well as cure it and repair the damage it causes."

"It would be lovely if the money I leave is the actual dollar that flicks the switch that finds the cure for MS!" - Gilli Barnard

Gilli Barnard moved to Australia as a "10 pound pom" in 1966, aged 19.

She had her first episode of MS in 1970. Gilli is an active and dedicated fundraiser for MS Research Australia. She's regularly at Hobart's Salamanca Market, sharing a joke and collecting spare change from tourists.

Despite the challenges of living with MS, Gilli is an endlessly positive person who is determined to help others.



"When I took up fundraising, I hoped they'd find a cure for MS before I die. That may not happen, but I know leaving a gift in my Will means the search will continue.

I feel comfortable and happy my Will isn't going to just one person but will make a difference for thousands of individuals living with MS."



By including MS Research Australia in your Will, you'll join a wonderful community of people passionate about finding a cure.

Your support will speed up the pace of progress and help change the world for everyone living with MS.

A world free from MS?

Your gift will help make it a reality.

2004

MS Research Australia established to accelerate MS research – to uncover the causes of MS, find better treatments and cures.

2009

The link between vitamin D and genes associated with MS discovered.

2011

The first oral therapy introduced for relapsing remitting MS in Australia.

2006

The first infusion based therapy introduced which provided additional options for those with very active disease.

2015

MS Research Australia funded researchers at the University of Queensland commence a world-first clinical trial for progressive MS that targets Epstein Barr Virus (EBV).

A person diagnosed with MS today will have a better quality of life – and live for longer – than someone diagnosed even a decade ago. That's the power of medical research.

Here's how investment in medical research into MS has powered extraordinary breakthroughs in a relatively short period of time.

By including MS Research Australia in your Will, you will increase the pace of discovery – until the day when no person's life choices or freedoms are reduced by MS.

2017

First ever treatment for progressive MS approved in several countries including Australia.

2019

The first ever treatment for secondary progressive MS approved in Australia.

2018

An asthma drug reduces the rate of brain tissue loss in people with both primary and secondary progressive MS in clinical trials.

TODAY

Please help continue the momentum until we can STOP and REVERSE MS.

So where do you start?

Possibly with some answers to frequently asked questions.

What happens if I don't make a Will?

Having an up-to-date Will means you can decide which people and causes receive your assets after you pass away. Without one, they may go to someone you wouldn't have chosen yourself.

Is it expensive or difficult to include MS Research Australia in my Will?

Not at all. If you already have a Will, you simply need to get in touch with your solicitor and include an extra sentence about your gift.

And if you'd like any help with the wording, or have questions about how to update your Will, we're happy to help.

Can I change my existing Will to include you?

Absolutely. Updating your Will to include a gift to MS Research Australia is quick and inexpensive. Though we recommend you use a solicitor to do so.

Can I look after those closest to me and still include a gift to MS Research Australia?

Of course - your loved ones should always be your priority. For that reason, most of our supporters choose to leave a 'residual gift' – a small percentage of the residue of their estate after family and loved ones have been taken care of.

With a residual gift, the percentage you allocate to charity stays the same, even if the value of your estate changes.


Is there a minimum amount I can leave?

Every gift will make a difference, and the amount you choose to leave is completely up to you. A residual gift (explained in brief on the opposite page) is an excellent way to make a difference, regardless of the value of your estate.

You can also choose to leave a specific dollar-amount or anything of value – such as real estate, jewellery or shares.

Two important things to consider when amending your Will:

- 1. Use a solicitor** to make sure things are exactly as you want them
- 2. Include the correct details** so your gift goes to:
Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia Limited (ABN 34 008 581 431)

A photograph of Associate Professor Yasmine Probst, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, sitting in a beige armchair. She is wearing a white short-sleeved top and has her hands clasped in her lap. The background is a warm-toned interior, possibly a clinic or office.

Associate Professor Yasmine Probst is researching the links between MS and nutrition.

She hopes to help people with MS manage their disease through lifestyle changes.

Your gift could fund this important area of research and also help Yasmine herself. She is one of several MS researchers who lives with MS.

We're here to help

If you have any questions, or you'd like a confidential conversation about leaving a gift in your Will, please get in touch with MS Research Australia.

Our friendly Future Planning Coordinator is Tara Koomen. Feel free to contact her directly on:

- Phone (business hours direct line):
02 9646 0622
- Email: **giftsinwills@ms.org.au**



*On behalf of everyone affected by MS,
and the researchers looking for a cure, thank you!*

Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia

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