



Every Tomorrow Better.

**Your opportunity to create a lasting legacy for
Australian children impacted by poverty.**

**A gift in your Will creates brighter futures
through the power of education.**

Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most profound acts any of us will ever make, an expression of our values and vision.

The fact you are holding this booklet says you are considering leaving a gift in your Will to The Smith Family.

That tells me you care very deeply for the wellbeing of Australian children.

That you believe, as many of us here in Australia do, that every child has the opportunity to change their future.

That you know some children in this wealthy country of ours are held back from realising their potential by poverty.

Today, 1 in 6 Australian children live in poverty.¹

A gift in your Will to The Smith Family is your opportunity to make a profound and positive impact on future generations of Australian children. To change these numbers. To break the cycles that drive them.

Your gift will have an immediate impact. You'll help to level the playing field so children have the same chance to learn, and build the skills and confidence they need to follow their dreams.

When a child receives extra support and can make the most of their education, they have a much greater chance of breaking the cycle of poverty.

It's a disruption. The start of a new chain of good that you are helping to perpetuate.

Your gift has the power to help make **every tomorrow better** for Australian children impacted by poverty. And all tomorrows better for all children.

Thank you for your consideration.

I hope the information on the following pages helps with your decision.

Please, if you have any questions, reach out to our very helpful Gifts in Wills team. Their contact details are on the back cover.

Gratefully yours,



Doug Taylor
Chief Executive Officer



¹ Davidson et al. (2024), Inequality in Australia 2024: Who is affected and how. ACOSS & UNSW Sydney.



Your gift to tomorrow's children

By leaving a gift in your Will to The Smith Family, you will be helping create an Australia where poverty doesn't hold children back. Where more young Australians can realise their own bright future. Where they're empowered with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to follow their dreams.



Leah

Leah’s future should have no limits

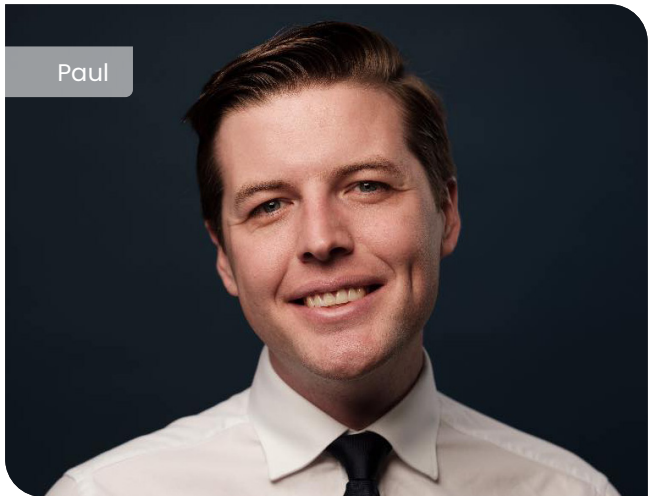
Leah is an eight-year-old who dreams of becoming an architect. She has already faced more challenges than most children her age. She’s had to change schools twice in two years, and is struggling to catch up, particularly in maths.

Her mother, Kim, and older sister, Bec, work hard to support her, but they are unable to offer all the help she needs with homework. Leah’s dream is to one day design and build a home so her family no longer has to move.

Leah wants nothing more than to do her best at school. And getting extra support to help her could help make her dreams come true.

Just like Leah, Paul once faced challenges caused by poverty. He grew up in public housing with his grandparents on the NSW South Coast and was supported by The Smith Family’s *Learning for Life* program.

He went on to graduate in Law and Commerce, becoming an estate planning solicitor and local councillor. For Paul, education was the key that unlocked doors. He’s chosen to leave a gift in his Will to help children like Leah build their own brighter futures.



Paul



Tabitha

Tabitha, also a proud alumna of the *Learning for Life* program, faced many challenges growing up that impacted her learning and confidence. Before receiving support from The Smith Family, Tabitha couldn’t participate in school camps or extracurricular activities.

Through The Smith Family’s learning and mentoring programs, Tabitha says getting support to participate in “those fundamental core-building experiences” helped her gain confidence, feel included, and gave her a sense of belonging and safety.

Today, Tabitha is a mum herself, has a little girl, and runs her own business with her partner.

DID YOU KNOW?

A little can go a long way

Even a small percentage of your estate, left to The Smith Family once you’ve taken care of loved ones, can make an enormous difference to the future of children impacted by poverty.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help make sure other young people – like Leah – can have the opportunities that Paul and Tabitha had.

You’ll help children get the vital support they need to change their tomorrow and build a better future.

The Impact of Poverty

At The Smith Family, we believe every child should have the opportunity to change their future. But for many children, financial disadvantage places significant barriers in their way – with too many at risk of never reaching their potential. As these challenges build over time, the gap widens.



Today, **1 in 6 Australian children live in poverty.**¹



In our most disadvantaged communities, **less than 50% of children were developmentally on track in the five key learning areas when they started school.**²

By Year 7, **nearly half of students** from the most disadvantaged backgrounds did not achieve above the national minimum **reading and numeracy standards** compared to only 9% of students from the most advantaged backgrounds.³



By age 15, Australian students experiencing the most disadvantage are about **three years of schooling behind in reading and maths** compared to their more advantaged peers.⁴



By age 19, **1 in 3** students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds **did not complete year 12 or equivalent.**³



By age 24, only **1 in 2 young Australians** from the most disadvantaged backgrounds were engaged fully in education, study or work.³

¹ Davidson et al. (2024). Inequality in Australia 2024: Who is affected and how. ACOSS & UNSW Sydney.
² Australian Early Development Census National Report (2024).
³ Lamb et al. (2020). Educational opportunity in Australia 2020: Who succeeds and who misses out. Mitchell Institute.
⁴ NAPLAN (2008). Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help break the cycle of disadvantage. Your legacy will ensure more Australian children have the support they need to stay in school, reach their potential, and create a brighter future.

Ignite their passion for learning

Support from generous donors – including those who have left a gift in their Will to The Smith Family – helps to lift the barriers poverty creates, giving children an equal chance to make the most of their education and fulfill their true potential.

Taking the barriers away helps children discover and ignite their own passion for learning, empowering them to be agents in their own bright futures, to make their dreams real.

Dylan’s mum Amy is a single parent who works a part time casual job. He receives a scholarship through the *Learning for Life* program and attends the *Learning Club* and *student2student* mentoring programs. Dylan’s confidence in maths and reading has soared and he’s discovered a passion for playing chess.

Angel and her four siblings are cared for by their adoring grandmother, Margaret, after her family went through an



unexpected change. With five children to put through school, Margaret reached out to The Smith Family.

Angel hopes to one day have her work on display as a famous artist and take her athletic skills to the top as a superstar Oztog or netball player.

The visionary decision of other supporters to leave a gift in their Will has already contributed to her success, giving her access to the school essentials and the extra learning support she needs to keep up at school, and chase her dreams.



A gift in your Will to The Smith Family will help support future generations of Australian children like Dylan and Angel to overcome the barriers caused by poverty and ignite their passion for learning. You'll be helping make all their tomorrows better.



The Gift of a Better Tomorrow

How your gift goes to work

Children have a far better chance of fulfilling their potential when they get a great start in life, from early childhood through to school completion.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you'll be helping to ensure this continues into the future, supporting children impacted by poverty through access to our *Learning for Life* educational programs built on evidence, proven by research and tailored to individual children's needs.

Here is just a snapshot of how your gift will be put to work helping children overcome the impact of poverty and get the education they need to fulfill their potential.

Early childhood

Support begins in early childhood as The Smith Family works with a child's family and community to help them develop

the essential literacy and numeracy skills they need to start school on the right track with programs like *Let's Read* and *Let's Count*.

Primary school

Research shows that reading performance among students from disadvantaged backgrounds tends to be lower, with 2 in 3 students experiencing disadvantage unable to read proficiently.⁵

Learning to read proficiently is critical to a young person's success throughout their education, impacting their ability to engage with the school curriculum.⁶

With your support, The Smith Family's *student2student* program helps children to improve their reading skills and confidence so they can progress in later years from "learning to read" to "reading to learn".

In 2023, **96% of students** in the program improved their reading, with **75% increasing** their reading level by up to two years.⁷

Another key program, *Learning Clubs*, provides a supportive environment for children to catch up, improve their skills and get tailored learning support from caring volunteer tutors.

High school

During high school, we ensure children have the everyday essentials and additional learning support needed to thrive.

To support positive transitions post-school, we offer students career support throughout high school to help them with study pathways and job readiness, including through the *Work Inspiration* program.

This program supports employers to develop three career engagement activities, combining hands-on experiences, career conversations between students and adults in the workforce, and student reflections and feedback.

Last year **178,430 children and young people** participated in our learning support programs.⁸

⁵ NAPLAN national results (2025). Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.

⁶ Introduction to the science of reading (2023). Australian Education Research Organisation.

⁷ The Smith Family *student2student* program outcomes report (2023).

⁸ The Smith Family annual report (2023-2024).

Other high school programs give students experiencing disadvantage the chance to build academic aspirations, develop creative skills, boost self-confidence and expand their social networks.

4 out of 5 students who were in Year 12 in 2022, were in education, employment or training 18 months after leaving school.⁸

Better tomorrows start today

Supporting *Learning for Life* programs through a gift in your Will is the best way to make sure children receive the long-term, wrap-around support they need to break the cycle of disadvantage.

From their very first day at school through to completing Year 12 and beyond, your gift will help ensure more children in need have the tools, opportunities and encouragement to keep learning, growing and believing in themselves. It is support that builds confidence today, opens doors tomorrow, and creates a brighter future for generations of Australian children.



Did you know?

We partner with hundreds of Australian schools to provide essential learning support.

"Children have a right, as young Australian citizens, to expect equitable access to education."

– Karen Snibson, principal

As the principal of a preschool-to-year 12 college in regional Victoria, Karen every day sees the impacts of families struggling to meet the demands and costs of participating in quality education.

"The Smith Family has a huge part to play in addressing those burdens," she says.

She sees too, what happens when children receive support from The Smith Family in partnership with educators.

"It actually helps put the village back around our children that is often missing in our society. It adds a family feel that includes a protective layer to support our children and families."



Teacher and changemaker Helen is leaving a gift in her Will

As a young girl, Helen often heard her father's words: *"Your education is everything."* He worked tirelessly every day to ensure she had every opportunity to succeed.

"I was the only one in my family to go to university," Helen says.

"Without Dad's sacrifice, I might never have become a teacher."

Returning to school as a teacher was an eye-opener. Helen saw just how many families were struggling to afford even the basics of education. She recognised parents like her father – working two or three jobs just to keep going – and children who were bright, determined, and in need of a little extra help to realise their potential.

Over the years, Helen watched many students, with the right support, go on to university or meaningful careers. *"They'll become role models for the next generation,"* she says.

Now retired as a school principal, Helen is proud to support The Smith Family. Knowing the difference an education can make, she has included a gift in her Will to help future generations of children overcome disadvantage and thrive.

"I'm in a comfortable position now, and I want to share that privilege," Helen says.

"Leaving a gift in my Will is such an easy thing to do – and it gives me great comfort to know I'll be helping young people reach their full potential for years to come."



Through the gift in her Will, Helen will provide life-changing support to many students in the coming years. Her generous legacy will help make **every tomorrow better** for more Australian children in need.

Just like you, she'll be helping students make the most of their education so they can follow their dreams.





Frequently asked questions

Q: How do I include The Smith Family in my Will?

Leaving a gift in your Will or updating your Will is simple. The Smith Family recommends a conversation with your lawyer or using an online Will-writing service.

Q: What kind of gift can I leave?

The usual ways to leave a gift in your Will are to leave a specific amount, an item of value or asset, or a percentage of your Will after your loved ones have been taken care of. We are so grateful for every gift in Will that we receive. Leaving even a small percentage of your estate can make a great impact for future generations of Australian children living in poverty.

Q: What should I leave my gift to?

Leaving your gift for the general purposes of The Smith Family gives the greatest flexibility to ensure your wishes can be carried out in the future, should programs change or no longer be offered. Our programs are evidence-based and continually evolving to meet the changing needs of children and young people, so your legacy will always be directed where it can have the greatest impact.

Q: Is there an ideal gift amount?

Every dollar counts and every gift to help Australian children leave poverty behind is valued and needed. Even a small percentage, once your loved ones are taken care of, can make an enormous difference to the future of children impacted by poverty.

Q: Do I need to let The Smith Family know about my gift?

We understand that leaving a gift in your Will is a very personal decision and respect your privacy. However, if you wish to let us know of your gift, we would love the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and share with you stories of impact, thanks to other wonderful supporters just like you.

Q: Should I let my loved ones know 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 so that they can understand and honour your vision.

Q: What wording should I use?

Our suggested wording when preparing your Will:

I bequeath to
The Smith Family ABN 28 000 030 179 for its general purposes
(Choose and insert the appropriate statement from the list below)

1. The whole of my estate
2. percentage of my estate
3. The amount of \$.....
4. My (asset)

I declare that the receipt of the Secretary or other proper officer shall be a complete discharge of my bequest.



Our Gifts in Wills Promise to You

Leaving a gift in your Will is an important and personal decision. The Smith Family thanks you for considering leaving a legacy to help future generations overcome poverty through the power of education. The following is our undertaking to you in relation to your gift:

- We know your family comes first and accept that loved ones should be cared for before you consider leaving a gift to charity.
- Telling us about your decision is appreciated but not required. We want to thank you properly but will fully respect your privacy if you prefer to remain anonymous.
- Your privacy is paramount. We commit to safeguarding your confidentiality.
- We welcome your interest. You, your family, and your loved ones are welcome to connect with The Smith Family and see the impact of gifts in Wills.
- We pledge to use every gift wisely, cost effectively, and exclusively to support disadvantaged Australian children through education.
- We promise to administer every gift with respect, gratitude, integrity, and honesty—treating both you and your loved ones with utmost care.

Notes:



**Please reach out.
We're here to help.**

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