

# Guide Dogs.

## Creating lifetimes of independence, together.

A gift in your Will empowers people with low vision or blindness to live life their way.



# Thank you for considering a life-changing gift.

If you're reading this booklet, you're someone who cares deeply about the lives of people who are blind or have low vision, and you're willing to turn that compassion into action, creating independence and inclusion. Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Guide Dogs. It's a profoundly generous and selfless decision.

I understand, firsthand, the life-changing difference your support can make. I was born with a rare eye condition called Cone Rod Dystrophy, but for most of my life, I didn't let it define me. I studied, built a career, travelled, married, and raised my two boys.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, I realised my vision had deteriorated far more than I'd thought. One afternoon while walking in my local area, I suddenly became disoriented. Streets I'd known for years felt unfamiliar.

As everyone else left lockdown, mine had just begun. After a long year of fearing leaving home, I reached out to Guide Dogs for support. With the help of their specialists, I rebuilt my confidence, and met my Guide Dog, Tatum. She quickly became an essential and much-loved member of our family.

I often say, "she's given me the confidence to embrace my disability and move forward again."



Thanks to Tatum, Guide Dogs and generous people like you, I've realised that anything is possible. I can walk my children to school, use public transport, provide for my family and enjoy everyday moments that once felt uncertain. Your compassion doesn't just change lives; it gives people like me the freedom to live them.

By remembering Guide Dogs in your Will, you'll be leaving a legacy to be proud of. You'll be empowering generations of people like me with the support they need to flourish and live life their way.

Thanks again for considering this life-changing legacy.

**Andrew**

Supporter Experience Officer, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT

# Thank you for your trust.

For more than 65 years, Australians have trusted Guide Dogs to support people with low vision or blindness.

Since the first Guide Dog in NSW/ACT in 1957, we have grown to be a trusted organisation that has helped empower thousands of people with low vision or blindness to live life their way.

Our ability to fulfil this responsibility has been made possible through the generous support of people like you.

We rely on your support. More than 80% of our funding comes from the community. Gifts in Wills are vital to our work with more than half of our dogs and services made possible because of people who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy.

I am sincerely grateful for your consideration in making such an important and heartfelt decision.



**Ashley de Silva**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Guide Dogs NSW/ACT



# Why your support is crucial.

- Almost five hundred thousand people in Australia are blind or have low vision.
- This number is expected to increase as a result of an ageing population and the increase of diabetes.
- One in seven Australians aged over 50 will experience significant sight loss.

Your bequest to Guide Dogs will ensure we can continue providing crucial support to generations of Australians living with blindness or low vision.



# Karlee and Isla – the perfect match.

“I’ve been involved with Guide Dogs for as long as I can remember.

When I was little, I received orientation and mobility skills training, which taught me the different skills I needed to become independent with my cane.

But I’ve always dreamt of having a Guide Dog.

Recently I was matched with my Guide Dog, Isla. She is active like me and we’re both social and love meeting new people. She is also good at adjusting and adapting, which is exactly what I need. I trust Guide Dogs and know they have found me the perfect match.

Isla is my eyes, my freedom and my independence. She is always by my side and we trust each other with everything.

Isla is going to change my life for the better. She is the best gift anyone could give to me.”

Karlee

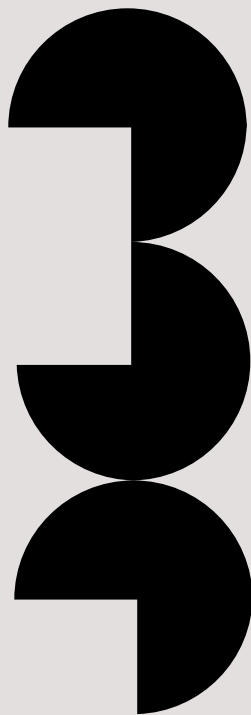
Guide Dogs Client



You can create a legacy that will empower people with blindness or low vision to live a life of their choosing.



Hear more from Karlee, pictured here with Guide Dog Isla, via the link or QR code.



# Jaci, Bess and a young family.

“Despite the privilege of having a Guide Dog by my side to help me safely and confidently navigate the world for over 25 years, I continue to be amazed at the skill, adaptability, intuition and love my precious Guide Dogs possess and demonstrate daily.

My previous Guide Dogs have been integral to my life as I’ve experienced and enjoyed high school, university, working, board Directorships, travel for work and pleasure, concerts, theatre and sporting activities.

My current Guide Dog, Bess, came to me at a time when I had a very busy work and social life and was frequently travelling.

However in 2021, Bess’ role and my requirements of her altered with the arrival of my baby daughter. In preparation for this, I’d worked with Guide Dogs to get Bess used to the added complexity of Guiding not only me, but also making allowances for the space required with the pram.

I could not be more proud of Bess and the way she has adapted to the additional challenges of a growing family. As my daughter has become a very active and independent toddler, there are changing demands and methods of working ahead of us as we all try to figure out how to safely and confidently move around.”

Jaci, Guide Dogs Client

“With Bess by our side,  
I’m excited to see what  
adventures lie ahead  
for our family!”



# Ivy and Perry – growing up with essential support.

“Ivy was born blind.

Throughout Ivy’s childhood, Katrina, an Orientation and Mobility Specialist from Guide Dogs has taught her so many valuable life skills to allow her to feel safe and secure when she is in difficult situations. Thanks to Katrina’s support, Ivy is now thriving in Kindergarten.

Katrina also introduced us to the Therapy Dog program, which was how we got Perry. Perry sleeps with Ivy every night which helps her stay settled and visits new places with her until she feels more comfortable to be able navigate them on her own. Perry has made a wonderful difference for Ivy, and is her best friend.”

Sheryl-lynn

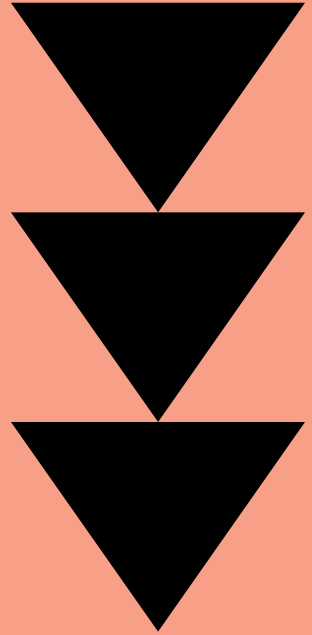
Ivy’s Mum



Hear more from **Sheryl-lynn and Ivy**, pictured here with Therapy Dog Perry, via the link or QR code.

Not all dogs that undertake training go on to become Guide Dogs. Some display behavioural traits better suited to our Therapy Dog program.

This program makes a difference to people who may be disadvantaged due to illness, disability or isolation.



# Your gift will support the breeding and raising of our puppies.

Lynney was specially selected to become a breeding dog because of her excellent health and temperament. Here she is with her litter including Kelly who was named in memory of Adrianus Van De Bunt who included a gift in his Will to Guide Dogs.



Eight-week-old Doc is off to his volunteer puppy raising family. In his new home, he'll learn lots of puppy skills and basic commands. He will be socialised in the big wide world in preparation for his future role.





Twelve-month-old Fran is ready to transition from her puppy raising family to the Guide Dogs Centre for intensive training to acquire the skills to become a Guide Dog. Fran was named in memory of Frances Brennan who included a gift in her Will to Guide Dogs.



Two-year-old Jeannie was named in memory of Noella Jean Austin Irish and has just graduated as a Guide Dog. She can navigate obstacles, target destinations, ignore common distractions and safely travel on escalators. She is comfortable in her harness and loves to work.



# The meaning of legacy.

Having served as executor for my beloved Auntie Sheila, I have come to deeply appreciate the significance of her decision to include charitable gifts in her Will. I have witnessed first-hand the impact of the gift to Guide Dogs, as her desire for a remarkable dog to become a partner and companion has been fulfilled through Woody.

Words cannot adequately express the profound satisfaction I feel, knowing that her gift has genuinely made a difference in someone's life. I can only imagine how moved and gratified she would be to see the positive impact her generosity has had.”

## Kent Woodcock

Nephew of Sheila Woodcock who left a gift in her Will to Guide Dogs



Hear more from **Kent** via the link or QR code.



Woody - named in memory of Sheila Woodcock

e Dogs.

Guide Do



“I won’t be seeking help just to survive and exist, it’s about living, dreaming and doing things that contribute to the world as much as anyone else can.”

Zara  
Guide Dogs Client

# Including a gift in your Will.

Thank you once again for considering such an important decision.

Once you have discussed your intentions with your loved ones and made the generous decision to include Guide Dogs NSW/ACT in your Will, it's important to consult your legal advisor to ensure the option you have chosen best reflects your intentions. We recommend you seek the advice of an independent solicitor or qualified legal advisor before making any changes to your Will.

It is important that Guide Dogs NSW/ACT is correctly named in your Will.

The following wording is suggested for your consideration and discussion with your solicitor.

## Example.

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

The rest and residue of my Estate, or

- \_\_\_\_\_ percent 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.



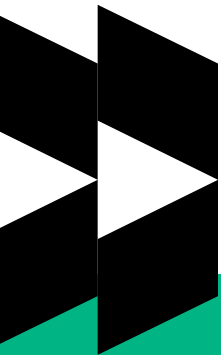
# The Daisy Circle.

The Daisy Circle was established to honour the generosity of our wonderful friends who have included a gift in their Will to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and is designed to bring together kindred supporters who have chosen to leave a life-changing gift.

In addition to the friendship and sense of community you'll enjoy, members receive exclusive invitations, regular updates and the opportunity to contribute feedback on the direction of the organisation and the services we provide.

If you are kindly remembering us in your Will, please tell us as we would love to thank you and invite you to become a member of the Daisy Circle with your name inscribed in our Daisy Circle Honour Book.

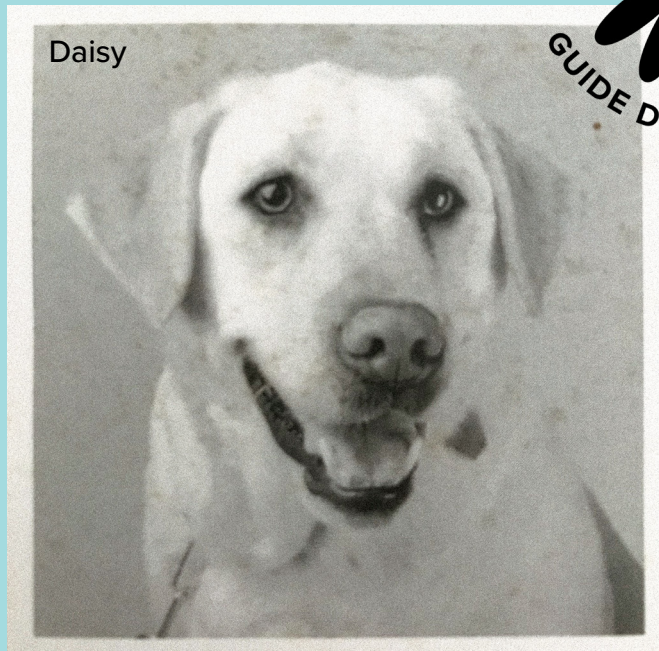
If you wish to have your name inscribed, please complete the enclosed for and return it to us in the reply paid envelope or email [bequests@guidedogs.com.au](mailto:bequests@guidedogs.com.au).



Hear more from bequestors **Carol and Doff** via the link or QR code.

“Our involvement with Guide Dogs is something that makes us proud every day. We like the idea that in the future our gift will continue to help people with low vision.”

Carol and Doff  
Bequestors





“My relationship with Guide Dogs over many years has underpinned my mobility and therefore my independence, initially with long cane training and most recently with the matching of my Guide Dog, Duke.

With Duke by my side I have confidence, a sense of safety, stress-free travel, invaluable companionship and, sometimes, a good laugh. I could not be without him in my life.”

Abby, Guide Dogs Client

**Guide Dogs.**

ABN 52 000 399 744



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