

A close-up photograph of a young child with light brown hair, wearing a black headband with white dinosaur patterns. The child is smiling broadly, showing their teeth. They are wearing a white shirt and a dark harness. The background is blurred, showing colorful elements of what appears to be a playground or fairground.

Leave a **resounding** legacy



The Shepherd Centre

Giving deaf children a voice





“I am immensely proud to see the children we help go on to live rich, bright and wonderful lives.”

A Message from Dr Aleisha Davis, Hearing Hero

I've been part of this amazing organisation for over 20 years since I joined as a speech pathologist. I have experienced firsthand the profound difference The Shepherd Centre makes to thousands of children's lives. I hold the standard at which we work, the best practice care we provide, and the incredible outcomes we achieve very close to my heart.

The Shepherd Centre has been such an important part of my life for so long and the work we do for children with hearing loss and their families gives me great purpose. I am immensely proud to see the children we help go on to live rich, bright and wonderful lives. This is made possible by the amazing support we receive from kind supporters, just like you.

Remembering The Shepherd Centre in my Will feels like a natural way to continue my dedication to this organisation that has shaped my life and to ensure a future for the next generation of children with hearing loss. The process of leaving a gift was simple and I am very pleased with my decision. I hope that you also join me in leaving a gift that keeps on giving.

Aleisha

Chief Executive Officer

About The Shepherd Centre

Founded in 1970 by Dr Bruce Shepherd and his wife, Annette, The Shepherd Centre has helped thousands of children with hearing loss. Their mission was personal – both of their children were born profoundly deaf. At that time, in Australia, there was no suitable program available to teach children who are deaf how to speak.

The organisation started with just one therapist and five families and has grown to assist over 850 families across Australia each year – and this figure continues to grow. Now, with the help of technology, The Shepherd Centre is able to help many families in regional and remote areas as well as internationally.

The Shepherd Centre's unique approach is considered amongst the world's best. Working with children from birth to six years of age and beyond, we are unique in that we offer a 'one stop shop' specialising in helping children with hearing loss. Families are well supported with an integrated approach involving a team of counsellors, audiologists, speech and language therapists and early childhood educators. This approach is tailored to meet the needs of each individual child ensuring the best outcomes.

Today, over 90% of our graduates attend mainstream school just like their hearing peers.





The Power of The Shepherd Centre

Hearing impairment is the most common disability diagnosed at birth. Over 90% of children with hearing loss are born to parents with typical hearing.

Families who come to The Shepherd Centre seek a listening and spoken language future for their child. Our mission is to help every family achieve this vision.

The core of our service is our intensive Early Intervention Program based on Listening and Spoken Language. Our graduating children often have the same spoken-language skills as typical hearing children of the same age – a testament to the incredible skill and hard work of their families and our clinicians. As a result, children are as well prepared as possible for school: able to listen in their classroom, understand their teacher, able to join discussions in class and talk with friends.

We believe that every family who chooses a listening and spoken language future for their child should be fully supported in their vision – and we are incredibly proud that no other centre we know of across the globe has published results matching ours.

We envision a world of choice, where future generations of children with hearing loss are empowered to listen, speak and have a voice.



You could help to
change the life of
a child like Marley
by including a gift
in your Will.

Marley's Story

Marley was diagnosed with hearing loss in both ears at four months old. The family discovered that The Shepherd Centre in Wollongong was the nearest hearing specialist service. After being connected with the centre, Marley and the family attended regular speech and language therapy sessions.

Marley's Mum, Jessica, has found staff at The Shepherd Centre to be proactive in working with Marley's other therapists to achieve his personal milestones and taking their time to ensure that the sessions were tailored for Marley's skills and involved activities that he enjoys.

'Staff at The Shepherd Centre Wollongong have been great in liaising and working with other therapists that Marley sees. This has made the process a lot easier for us. His different therapists can discuss and exchange information directly rather than passing messages through us as parents.'

When Marley was 4 he received his first cochlear implant and the second implant followed just 8 months later.

Marley is now 10 and is thriving at school, where his education team work collaboratively to support his learning needs. His Listening and Spoken Language Therapist, Kate, has said he is doing very well with his sessions at our Wollongong centre and his team are really happy with his growth in confidence.

Sarah's Story

Donor & Hearing Hero

I was visiting my parents' house a few years ago and answered their telephone to a lovely lady from The Shepherd Centre. I answered the phone because my mother is almost completely deaf unless she has her hearing aids in and the call would otherwise have gone unanswered. I thought there was a beautiful symmetry to the story and the call was in some ways "meant to be".

I had not heard of The Shepherd Centre but spoke to my Mum about it and she was very familiar with Dr Shepherd's work – I instantly signed up as a contributor and have been one ever since.

The Shepherd Centre has a fabulous team of people and in conversation I was made aware of the ability to leave a gift in my Will which I hadn't previously considered. The conversation wasn't pushy and my continuing appreciation of the great work done at the centre made it an easy decision.

It wasn't difficult to include a gift in my Will and I'm thrilled that anything I am able to leave will be used to continue the awesome work done at The Shepherd Centre. I've visited the Newtown centre and was blown away by the teams and the children there. I think more people would leave gifts if there were a greater awareness of the opportunity to do so and it makes the act of updating Wills something we should consider more often.

To others considering leaving a gift in their Will to The Shepherd Centre, I would say, don't hesitate - it's an incredibly simple and life changing thing to do.



How to leave a gift in your Will

After taking care of your loved ones in your Will, there are options for you to truly change a child's life. All donations, no matter how big or small, make an incredible difference to the future of a child. Choosing the type of gift you would like to leave depends entirely on your circumstances and we recommend you seek independent, professional advice.

Gift options

Percentage: You can make a provision for a proportion of your estate to be gifted to The Shepherd Centre.

Residuary: After making provision for your loved ones, you can then donate a part of the balance of your estate to The Shepherd Centre.

Pecuniary (set amount): This option allows you to nominate a set amount of money to be donated to The Shepherd Centre.

Back-up: You can nominate a percentage of your estate to be left to The Shepherd Centre in the event that a beneficiary passes away before you.

Assets: You can gift specific items from your Will to The Shepherd Centre. Some suggestions might include shares, property, life insurance funds, artworks and jewellery. These can be itemised and bequeathed to The Shepherd Centre.

You can rest assured knowing the gift you leave will continue to make a difference to children with hearing loss well into the future.



All donations,
no matter how big
or small, make an
incredible difference
to the future of
a child.



Introducing Hearing Heroes

When you choose to leave a gift in your Will to The Shepherd Centre, you are joining a very special group of like-minded supporters. The Hearing Heroes Community was established to honour and acknowledge the generosity and kindness of people who have remembered The Shepherd Centre in their Will. It is an exclusive membership that does not involve any fees or responsibilities.

As a Hearing Hero, you will receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a special membership gift. You will be invited to exclusive tours and events by The Shepherd Centre, including opportunities to meet our CEO, clinical staff and families. You will also be kept up to date with what is happening at The Shepherd Centre.

Together, Hearing Heroes are leaving a legacy that will empower future generations of children with hearing loss to listen, speak and have a voice.





**SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ
MORE SUPPORTER STORIES**

Bob's Story

Volunteer caretaker, donor & Hearing Hero

Born and bred in Wollongong, Bob joined the military after school. After discharge, adjusting back to civilian life was extremely difficult. His hearing began to disappear in his mid-50s. Within four years he was profoundly deaf and forced into early retirement. With no support to adapt to life with profound deafness, Bob said he was utterly alone.

'I spent four years in total isolation. It wasn't until 2009 that I received my first implant. The second was done the following year. Needless to say my life changed overnight. It was the most wonderful and awesome gift.'

Bob became heavily involved in advocacy duties in the Illawarra. While there was assistance from larger organisations, he found no local support to help adjust to life with bionic ears, so he decided to create his own.

'Forming the support group was my best move ever. People only become aware once they have encountered deafness. That's why it's very important to have advocates that can assist those that need help in the early stages of adjusting.'

Bob became involved with The Shepherd Centre in Wollongong while he was pinning up an events list. He started chatting with the senior therapist there and within the hour was appointed the go-to for maintenance and repairs.

During this time, Bob saw first-hand The Shepherd Centre's work with children and their families. He said his decision to leave a gift in his Will was a no-brainer. *'For me, having experienced the isolation of being deaf and now seeing the journey of the families and children, it was only natural to make the bequest. It's just so worthwhile to help kids.'*

FAQs

Why leave a gift in my Will to The Shepherd Centre?

We rely on the kindness of people like you as government funding only covers 45% of our costs. Sadly, not all children who are hearing impaired receive support and this is why we are asking you to consider this gift.

For every child in our program, we know that there is another child out there who desperately needs our services. 50% of children who need it are simply not receiving support from any specialist providers. Your long-lasting support will help to change these sad statistics in the future.

How do I make or change my Will?

You can make an appointment with a solicitor to obtain expert advice when drawing up your Will or making changes to an existing Will. You can also use an online Will-writing platform that works with an affiliate legal firm.

Can I make a gift in my Will to more than one charity?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of charities you can remember in your Will.

Do I need to leave my entire estate to The Shepherd Centre?

No, and we strongly encourage you to ensure that you look after your family and/or loved ones first.

What type of gift would The Shepherd Centre prefer?

Whilst any gift is greatly appreciated, a residual legacy or a percentage are the best options because they maintain a relative value and automatically adjust to changes in the value of your estate. These legacy types do not decrease in value over time.

Why should I let you know that I have left you a gift in my Will?

Informing us of your generous decision is important as it allows us to thank you personally and to welcome you into our Hearing Heroes Community - a group of like-minded supporters of The Shepherd Centre's work. As a Hearing Hero you will receive invitations to attend special events and be kept informed of the great work happening at The Shepherd Centre. We can also discuss other recognition options with you.

What if I want my gift to remain anonymous?

We would still love to thank you privately, however, we respect all our supporters' wishes and your details will be held in strictest confidence. You will control the level of contact that you receive from us.

I have already made my Will - is it too late for me to leave a gift in my Will to The Shepherd Centre?

No. Changing your Will and adding a gift to The Shepherd Centre is easy – all you have to do is make a 'codicil' (or a document that amends a previously executed Will). When you next see your solicitor, just take a copy of our wording with you and they can simply update your existing Will for you. If you made your Will with an online Will-writing platform, it is quick and easy to update.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Wording to take to your solicitor

“I give, free of all duties and taxes to The Shepherd Centre – for deaf children (ABN 61 000 699 927) of 146 Burren St, Newtown NSW 2042 for its general charitable purposes. An authorised receipt from The Shepherd Centre – for deaf children will be sufficient discharge for the executor or trustee.”

- % of my estate
- the rest and residue of my estate
- the sum of \$.....
- the following assets (specify item eg. artwork or property)

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We thank you for your kindness and generosity. You will leave a resounding legacy, empowering children with hearing loss to have a voice for generations to come.





Our promise to you

- Your Will is personal to you. You can tell us if you've left a gift and we'd love to hear from you, but you don't need to and we won't keep asking. If you do tell us, we'll give you a choice about how and how often we talk to you in the future.
- We recognise that, rightly, family and friends must always come first.
- There is no pressure. It's your decision to make in your own time. Talk it over with your loved ones.
- We will use your gift thoughtfully, carefully and cost-effectively.
- We will give you as much choice as possible about how your gift will be used.
- We will give you the chance to be connected with the work. Your thoughts and opinions are always welcome.
- You have the right to change your mind at any time.

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will which would ensure that The Shepherd Centre can continue our work for years to come, empowering children with hearing loss.



Private & Confidential

Please tick the relevant boxes below:

- I will consider including a gift in my Will to The Shepherd Centre.
- Telephone me to confidentially discuss further.
- Telephone me to arrange a tour. (This will give you the opportunity to see first-hand the important work The Shepherd Centre undertakes, and meet some of the families and children).
- I am intending to include The Shepherd Centre in my Will.
- I have already included The Shepherd Centre in my Will.

Comments:

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First name: Surname:

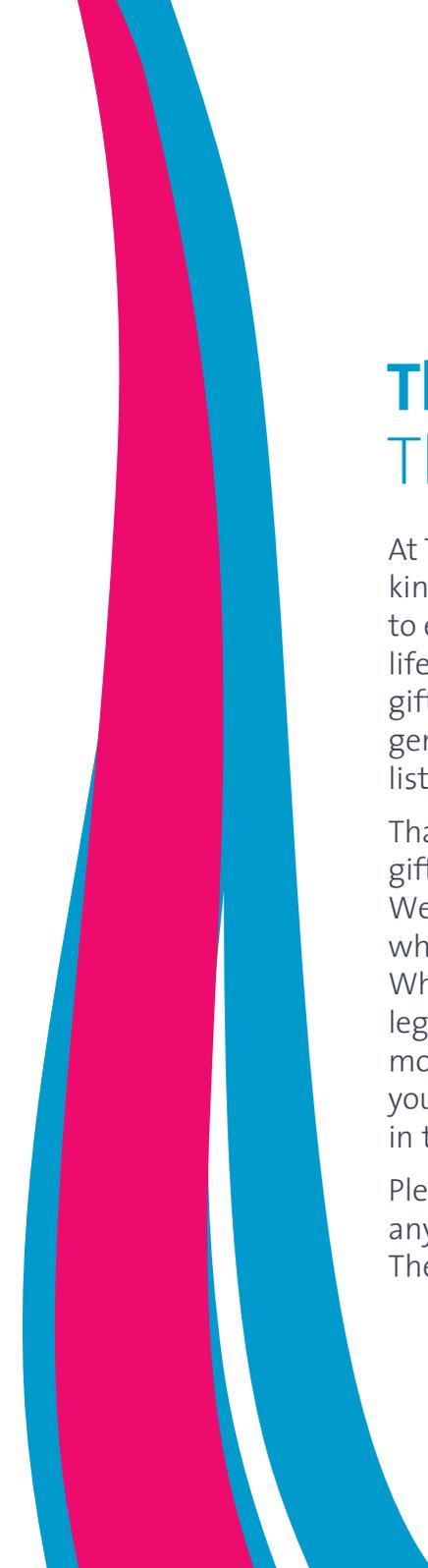
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Thank you from The Shepherd Centre

At The Shepherd Centre, we rely on the kind-heartedness of supporters like you to ensure we can continue to deliver our life-changing services. By planning a future gift, you will help us to empower future generations of children with hearing loss to listen, speak and have a voice.

Thank you once again for considering a gift in your Will to The Shepherd Centre. We know this is a significant decision which requires careful consideration. Whilst The Shepherd Centre cannot offer legal advice, we are happy to provide more information about how a gift in your Will can make a difference to families in the future.

Please feel free to call us if you have any questions about leaving a gift to The Shepherd Centre on (02) 9370 4400.



THANK
YOU! ❤️



The Shepherd Centre

Giving deaf children a voice

