

Use Your Will Power

When planning your Estate, a number of questions come to mind. This guide is designed to help answer some of them.

What is a Will?

A Will is a statement of your wishes as they relate to your estate. It is a legal directive to your trustees about how your assets should be distributed after your death. A Will ensures that your wishes are followed and this can safeguard the future of your family.

What is a Bequest?

It is a provision in a Will to donate to a charitable cause. This enables the gifting of property, insurance policy, cash or other assets from your estate to a worthy organisation like Hospice Waikato. A bequest is a common form of providing the ultimate gift for a cause you support and wish to acknowledge your involvement with and thus help to safeguard its future.

Why Should I Make a Will?

It will give you peace of mind. By making a Will you ensure your wishes are met in relation to the distribution of your assets. It's the last opportunity we all have to express our appreciation and love to our family members and our preferred charities. If a person does not leave a Will, they run the risk of having their estate incur significant legal expense together with confusion and misunderstanding over their intentions.

How Do I Make a Will?

By consulting a solicitor, the Public Trust Office or a trustee company such as the Guardian Trust. Professional help will maximise the amount your beneficiaries receive and avoid pitfalls that could cause unnecessary expense. A Will is a legal document that helps safeguard the future of your family and loved ones.

How Do I Change My Existing Will?

You can review and update your Will at any time. It is recommended you review your Will every 5-7 years. When reviewing your Will, you have the opportunity to consider making a bequest to Hospice Waikato and other charities you would like to remember.

Why Make a Bequest to Hospice Waikato?

Because we need your support. Hospice Waikato is committed to providing the best care possible to a person with a terminal illness. This is not just helping the person through the dying process with as little pain as possible, it also includes the equally important task of helping the bereaved family cope with the pain of loss. We wish to make this service freely available to anyone who requires it. In order to do just that, we need to seek financial support from the wider community. A bequest means that you can continue to care for others in your community when you are no longer here to help in person. Your influence will be felt and acknowledged beyond your lifetime.

What Do I Need To Do In Order To Make a Bequest?

If you have a Will, you need to make an amendment called a Codicil. It should not cost you anything to add a codicil to your Will. See your solicitor, or person who handles your legal affairs, and they will add it for you. A bequest that is not in your Will is unlikely to be valid.

You can provide a gift for General Funding purposes:

The wording for a general gift to Waikato Hospice Community Trust is:

"I give to Waikato Community Hospice Trust, Hamilton (___% of the residue of my estate; or sum of money; or write description of property or assets) for general purposes, for which the receipt of the Chief Executive Officer or other proper officer, shall be full and sufficient discharge to my trustees".

Or you can provide a gift to the Foundation Trust:

The wording for a Gift in Perpetuity to ensure the future of Waikato Community Hospice Trust is:

"I give to Waikato Community Hospice Trust, Hamilton (___% of the residue of my estate; or sum of money; or write description of property or assets) for investment purposes for which the receipt of the Chief Executive Officer, or other proper officer shall be full and sufficient discharge to my trustees."

What Would Hospice Use My Bequest For?

By leaving a bequest in your Will, you will ensure that we are able to continue providing the best possible palliative care to all who turn to us. The preferred option is "for the general purposes of the Waikato Community Hospice Trust." However, your bequest will be used according to your wishes and if you stipulate that this must be utilised in a particular area of Hospice work, we will honour that request.

If not otherwise designated, Bequests, Legacies and donations to Hospice Waikato will be lodged into The Waikato Community Hospice Foundation which is a registered Charitable Trust set up to ensure that the future of Hospice Waikato is protected. Bequests, Legacies and other donated funds are invested wisely to provide a capital account which will produce income to preserve and grow the wonderful services Hospice provides within our region for both present and future generations.

Donations to the Foundation qualify for an income tax rebate within the limits allowed by the Inland Revenue Department. The Foundation itself is exempt from income tax on any interest or other income earned.

The Foundation Trust members are all eminent and respected citizens of Hamilton, combining a passionate interest in our Hospice with business and investment acumen.

The Trustees are:

John Erkkila - NZ Home Loans, Chris Williams - KingSt Advertising, David Nielsen - Nielsen Law, Margaret Comer - Gallagher Group, Brian King Harcourts Hamilton, Mike Livingstone - Livingstone Builders and Richard Small – Hospice Waikato Board Trustee.

The Trustees invite you to contribute to the Foundation fund. You may wish to make a cash gift, an ongoing monthly gift or make provision in your will to leave a gift that keeps on giving. Donations are tax deductible and receipts will be issued on request.

If you would like to make a bequest or donation, or have questions about the Foundation, please don't hesitate to contact us on 07 859 1260 or email: accoutant@hospicewaikato.org.nz - This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

Waikato Community Hospice Foundation, PO Box 325, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240

Do you want to know if I have remembered Hospice Waikato in my Will?

Yes, those who have left a bequest to Hospice Waikato are special to us. They are the people who we know have an interest in our future and we like to keep these people at the forefront of our plans and dreams. So if you choose to include us in your will, please tell us about it so we can thank you personally and keep you up to date with our progress.

Do You Need More Information From Us?

If you would like to discuss your intentions in complete confidence with us, we would be happy to come and meet with you and talk about the benefits your bequest will bring in the future, and any particular areas of interest you may have.

Please call our CEO Elizabeth Bang on (07) 859 3823 or email Elizabeth in confidence at elizabeth@hospicewaikato.org.nz