

My Last Will...

A

Gift In Your Will



Your voice echoing into the future

What is a Will?

A Will is a legal document that outlines your wishes for your estate when you have passed, giving you the opportunity to direct gifts to the people and causes important to you.

When preparing your Will, we respectfully suggest seeking the assistance of your family solicitor or Trustee and clearly discussing your wishes with your loved ones.

If you already have a Will in place but would like to make an amendment or addition, called a Codicil, this can easily be completed by your solicitor or Trustee.

What is a gift in your Will?

A gift in your Will is the giving of assets or a sum of money to individuals or organisations. Giving you the opportunity to support causes you care about after you're gone.

A gift in your Will can take on many forms:

- Residuary: remainder of your estate after taking care of your loved ones
- Percentage: a percentage of the value of your estate
- Pecuniary or specific: a specific sum of money, property or items.

How will my gift be used?

A gift in your Will to Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand (MSNZ) enables you to **keep transforming lives, sharing your voice of support and helps us continue improving access to supports and services for those with MS in New Zealand.**

Of course, loved ones come first, but even a small gift in your will could help us improve the lives of people with Multiple Sclerosis. **A gift to MSNZ is a gift that makes a difference and lives on in memory. Your gift will help future generations living with the effects of Multiple Sclerosis.**

Most people choose to leave a gift for general purposes as it allows MSNZ to use the gift in the greatest area of need. However, you can specify that you would like to support one of our key programmes:

Advocacy Programme – focusses on improving access to treatments and services to improve the well-being of those impacted today and in the future. Through our advocacy programme we endeavour to:

- Recommend internationally recognised strategies to maximise lifelong 'brain health'.
- Advocate for international consensus recommendations on diagnosis, therapeutic strategies and improving access to treatment in MS.
- Recommend treating MS early to preserve tissue in the central nervous system and maximise lifelong brain health by reducing disease activity.
- Call for major policy changes aimed at achieving the best possible outcomes for people with MS and those who care for them.
- Work to break down barriers to treatment and care for people living with MS.

Education Programme - MSNZ organises ongoing education for regionally based Community Support Workers to best support clients in their local communities. Community Support Workers are key for educating those impacted by MS and where necessary providing advocacy support. Leaving a gift in your will would enable us to cover costs to reduce barriers to training for small regional organisations.

Information Programme - MSNZ provides evidence-based information to support and encourage people to take control of their diagnosis and condition. Promoting positive attitudes and lifestyle modifications can have a profound effect on symptom management and maximising opportunities for long-term health and brain health outcomes. Information resources help people understand their diagnosis or new symptoms. Reading about people's experiences provides comfort, showing people they are not alone and where to go for further support. Information for families, carers and employers on how to support their loved ones is also available via MSNZ.

Raising Awareness - Each year we look to raise national awareness of MS, which is often misunderstood. By highlighting the experiences and needs of those impacted by the condition we generate empathy and understanding to reduce isolation and increase inclusivity for the MS community.

Wording your bequest

If you are writing a Will for the first time or making an amendment to an existing Will (codicil) we recommend reviewing the below text with your solicitor.

"I bequest to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of New Zealand the sum of \$ (or) % of my estate, (or) residue of my estate (or) property or assets as follows:

for the general purposes of the Trust and declare that official receipt of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of New Zealand will be sufficient discharge for my Trustee/Executors."

Your Will is a testament to what you believe in and it can create lasting change.

Advising us of your wishes

If you have chosen to leave a gift in your Will to MSNZ, we would love to hear about it so we can thank you personally for your support.

We understand that priorities change throughout your life, whether your family needs more support, or your interests change. If you have advised us that you are making a gift to MSNZ and this changes for any reason, we kindly ask that you give us a call so that we can update our records.

If you would like to advise MSNZ of your next of kin, we will ensure that we contact them following the receipt of your gift and update them as to how your gift has been used.

Your voice will echo on.....and on.....

When you pledge to support MSNZ by leaving a gift in your Will, we'll welcome you to Echo. Echo is a group of people that have chosen to join us in making sure the voices of those affected by Multiple Sclerosis continue to be heard echoing forward, so positive change can be achieved.

As a member of this group, we promise to you that your gift will:

- be used wisely and effectively to educate, inform and advise those affected by Multiple Sclerosis to live well
- support the family, friends and carers that assist those with Multiple Sclerosis
- advocate for positive change, increasing access to treatments and standards of care.

MSNZ is always delighted to have the opportunity to meet with our supporters. If you would like to speak with us about your Will, please contact info@msnz.org.nz or call 0800 67 54 63.

Thank you.