

# *Lifeline beyond your lifetime*



*Your guide to including  
MAF Australia in your Will*



## ***A lifeline beyond . . .***

Thank you for your interest in the possibility of leaving a bequest to MAF Australia. We realise this is a very personal matter, and this booklet is designed simply as a resource for you to use in understanding what might need to be done in order to make this a reality.

In some parts of the MAF world, it is estimated that one in six flights is made possible by drawing upon the resources made available by those who have remembered MAF in their Wills, flights that otherwise would not have been possible. Clearly, there is much that MAF can achieve with access to this form of income.

Bequests, whether large or small, are equally valued, and they can provide a sizeable resource that may be drawn upon for large (or even unexpected) needs, such as disaster relief, or the purchase of new aircraft.



## ***Our Five Recommendations for Will-making:***

John Wesley once wrote “Reader, if you have not done it already, make your Will before you sleep”. Good advice indeed! If you die without making a Will, state law intervenes, and your estate may be administered in a way that neither you nor your closest family members would wish, so . . .

**Number 1:** make sure you have a valid, up to date Will.

**Number 2:** family comes first when it comes to deciding how your estate is to be allocated. As Paul says in 1 Timothy 5:8 “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever”. It would be hard to argue against this advice. A bequest to MAF should only be considered once family have been provided for.

We strongly recommend you use the services of a solicitor in drawing up (or changing) your Will. We would generally discourage the use of do-it-yourself Will kits in drafting what could well prove to be the most important and far-reaching document you ever write, so . . .

**Number 3:** If at all possible, utilise the services of a solicitor in drawing up your Will.

**Number 4:** Choose your executor(s) carefully. This person or group will be ultimately responsible for carrying out the instructions contained in your Will. If you are not able to easily identify suitable executors from among your circle of family or friends, you may consider engaging the services of a trustee company, which will do the work of an executor, and deduct their fee from your estate.

**Number 5:** Ensure that other end-of-life matters are attended to:

- Make sure your executor knows where your Will is located
- Decide the issue of organ/tissue donation, and discuss this with your family
- Clarify your wishes concerning life support/terminal illness
- Leave instructions about funeral arrangements/disposal of ashes.

Attending to all these things in a timely fashion will relieve your family of a good deal of pressure, especially in the case of sudden illness or death.

## ***Decoding the jargon***

It helps to understand some of the more common words used in estate planning (as it is sometimes called). The main ones you might come across are:

**Administrator:** Someone legally appointed to look after your affairs if you fail to leave a Will, or if your executor doesn't act according to your wishes.

**Beneficiary:** Anyone who receives something from your estate.

**Bequest:** A gift made in a Will, whether cash or property or other valuables, also sometimes called a legacy.

**Codicil:** A document making a change or addition to an existing Will.

**Estate:** The total of the property, possessions and liquid assets you leave when you die.

**Executor:** Someone you appoint to make sure the instructions in your Will are carried out.

**Grant of probate:** Official recognition that an executor has the right to administer the deceased's estate according to the terms of the Will.

**Intestate:** The situation where someone dies without leaving a Will. They are said to have died "intestate".

**Probate:** The legal procedure which establishes whether or not you left a valid Will, and who your executors will be.

**Planned giving:** Sometimes used to describe the process of making provision for a charity or not-for-profit organisation in a Will.

**Residue:** That which is left of your estate after all debts, expenses and specific gifts have been paid.

**Testator/Testatrix:** A man/woman who makes a Will.

## ***The best bequest for you***

There are a number of different types of bequest that can be made, and it is entirely your choice as to which is best suited to your circumstances.

The four main types are:

**A specific dollar amount** – determined by you at the time of writing your Will.

**A percentage of your estate** – the advantage of this over a set amount is that it will likely gain in value over time, and may more accurately reflect the size of bequest you plan to make.

**The residue of your estate** (or a percentage of the residue) – this is determined after other specific gifts, debts and expenses have been paid, and is a useful option if you are uncertain what size of bequest to make.

**A specific item of value** – anything that could be used or converted to liquid assets by a beneficiary: shares, an art collection, life insurance policy, real estate etc. Before making a bequest of this particular type, it may be best to discuss its suitability with the beneficiary first.



## ***Suggested wording for a bequest to MAF Australia:***

I, \_\_\_\_\_ give, devise and bequeath to MAF Australia  
(ABN 26 134 583 887) for its general purposes, free of all duties, the following:

*(whichever is applicable)*

The sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(or) \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate

(or) The residue, (or) \_\_\_\_\_% of the residue of my estate

(or) Life Insurance Policy number \_\_\_\_\_

(or) Property situated at \_\_\_\_\_

(or) Other (details) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*and I direct that the receipt of the Chief Executive Officer, or other proper officer  
of MAF Australia shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor for the bequest.*

The precise wording that you use in your Will should be finalised with the help of a solicitor to ensure that your exact wishes are conveyed.

If your bequest is in the form of a codicil to an existing Will, the wording will be similar (again, you may like to employ the assistance of a solicitor). A codicil is kept with (but not attached to) your Will. Its contents carry just as much weight as the Will itself. A codicil also needs to be signed by two witnesses – however they need not be the same ones who witnessed your original Will.



We in MAF would love to know when you have taken the important step of including MAF Australia in your Will. It not only gives us the opportunity to acknowledge your commitment through membership of MAF's bequest society, the **Harry Hartwig Fellowship**, but also helps us to plan for the future expansion of our work in new areas, and with more modern equipment. Unless you feel comfortable in doing so, you need not disclose the details of your bequest.

You are welcome to contact us in these ways:

By mail: MAF Australia  
PO BOX 7187  
Baulkham Hills, NSW 2153

By phone: Freecall 1800 650 169

By email: [maf@maf.org.au](mailto:maf@maf.org.au)

