



The power

of a promise.



promise

to create a world where
no-one on the autism
spectrum is left behind.

Alex, aged 7

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Parents makes a promise to give their child the best life possible. But what if they simply can't - unless they have help?

For children growing up on the autism spectrum, life can be extra challenging. They may struggle to concentrate or engage with learning or other people. Everyday stimuli, such as noise and light, can be overwhelming.

Without support, these challenges can seriously impact their relationships, independence and wellbeing.

We've made a promise to help create a world where no-one on the autism spectrum is left behind. Will you make this promise too?

I'm asking you to consider joining our Promise Program. This is a very special group of Aspect supporters who have already chosen to promise their lasting support for the vital programs, tools and schools which can help children on the autism spectrum grow up to live their best lives.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help create a world where there are fewer obstacles for people on the autism spectrum and they can access all the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential.

It's a powerful promise that will keep on giving.

If you choose to join our Promise Program, this book will guide you through the next steps of writing or updating your Will. I hope this will answer any questions you may have, but if there's anything you're not sure about, I am happy to have a confidential conversation.

Thank you so much for thinking of leaving a gift in your Will. Your promise will ensure that no child on the autism spectrum is left behind.



Jacqui Borland

Welcome to the Promise Program

A promise for tailored education

Liam saw his world open
with the help of Autism
Spectrum Australia
(Aspect)

At Aspect we provide education that helps every child fulfil their unique potential, and to develop confidence and skills that can be taken into every part of their life.

Our nine autism-specific Aspect schools offer a caring, supportive environment where highly-trained teachers can identify the strengths of each child, nurture their interests, help them achieve goals and reach their potential.

When Liam started at his Aspect school he was unable to communicate or connect, even with his parents. He couldn't speak or concentrate for long, and was easily distressed by noise. But the program and resources in his Aspect classroom helped him overcome these barriers and develop the skills to live his best life.

Noise-cancelling ear muffs kept Liam calm so he could concentrate for longer in class. iPads, interactive whiteboards, visual aids and storyboards together with the specialised program provided by his teachers helped Liam learn to communicate. He took big steps, going from visual communication to being able to verbally express himself. These achievements have transformed Liam's life and deeply impacted the people around him.

As Vicky explains: "I never thought I'd be able to have a conversation with my son - but I have. Without Aspect, it wouldn't have happened."

From making friends and enjoying learning, to building an independent life, Aspect's support is essential for Australian children growing up on the autism spectrum.



Liam and his family

"Without Aspect we would not have been able to see how amazing, funny and loving he is."

- Vicky, Liam's mum



Liam, aged 8

A promise for progress

By leaving a gift in your Will, you have the opportunity to contribute to a project that will help change the world for children and adults on the autism spectrum.

Gifts from Wills are treated in a very special way by Aspect. Unless you tell us otherwise, all gifts are dedicated to major projects with a lasting impact. This ensures your gift will benefit people on the autism spectrum for generations to come.

In the past, gifts from Wills have allowed us to establish new services, pilot ground breaking approaches and reach new geographic areas. In 2019, gifts from Wills have made it possible for us to build a brand new school.

Just as autism is a life-long developmental condition, Aspect works in partnership with people of all ages, ensuring our tailored support continually adapts to their needs.

When you join the Promise Program, you will give children like Liam access to therapy and early childhood support programs, as well as life-changing, autism-specific education in our Aspect schools and satellite classrooms.

With your kind help, we can undertake major projects that receive no government funding such as:

- expanding our effective early childhood support programs to reach more families.
- designing and tailoring classrooms and autism friendly playgrounds that best support children on the autism spectrum.
- developing our adolescent services that assist young people to prepare for adulthood.
- supporting job seekers on the autism spectrum to develop the key skills to find and maintain long term, meaningful employment.



Ground-breaking research

Your gift can also be used for innovative research programs that have the potential to bring a significant difference to the lives of children and adults on the autism spectrum both in Australia and overseas.

A promise
that lasts
beyond
a lifetime



Sarah Pieters, Promise
Program member

Meet Sarah, a proud member of our Promise Program.

Sarah Pieters decided to make a promise that will last beyond her lifetime – a promise to improve the world for people on the autism spectrum.

Sarah has been aware of Aspect's work for as long as she can remember. As a child, she lived down the road from the first ever Aspect School and even remembers attending the school's first fete. But her personal passion for creating a more autism-friendly world was sparked when she got a job with Aspect.

"I started to read about autism and I was fascinated by it," Sarah says. "People on the autism spectrum that I met had a different way of seeing the world, and our world just isn't shaped to work for them. I felt really passionate about the need to change things to remove that disadvantage."

Sarah's determination to improve the lives of people on the autism spectrum grew. It led to her making the choice to leave a gift in her Will to Aspect.

"Aspect has transformed so many lives and it's so wonderful to see the faces of the families and children," said Sarah. "I think it's one of the great joys of life to be able to help people who need a hand...Yet I know there is so much more to do, which is why I've left a gift in my Will and why I continue to support Aspect today. I know how important what they do is."

*"Leaving a gift
in your Will is an
opportunity to make
sure that the things
you're passionate
about during your life
continue to live on once
you're gone."*

- Sarah Pieters

How to leave a gift in your Will

Leaving a gift in your Will is a meaningful promise, and a significant commitment. Here are some of the questions we are frequently asked, to help answer your own.

FAQ

What is a gift in a Will or bequest?

A Will is a legally binding document that lets you say what you want to happen to your property after you are gone. Everyone over the age of 18 should have a valid Will. If you do not have a Will, you could lose the opportunity to give the people you care about the things you most value.

When creating or updating your Will, provide for your family and friends first and then reflect on whether you can also include a gift to Aspect.

Why leave a gift to Aspect in my Will?

Leaving a gift in your Will costs nothing in your lifetime but your lasting promise will have a profound impact on the lives of Australians on the autism spectrum. Gifts from kind people like you are so important because they provide stability for our organisation and allow for long-term planning of major projects like new schools.

What kind of gift can I leave?

There are three main ways to make a gift in Will to Aspect:

- 1. Residuary:** You can make a gift of the residue (or remainder), or a percentage of the residue, of your estate once specific gifts and expenses have been taken care of.
- 2. Specific:** You can make a specific gift by simply stating the dollar amount in your Will that you wish to leave to Aspect.
- 3. An asset:** You may wish to make a gift of a specific asset, for example real estate, shares or bonds.

Is there a minimum amount I need to donate?

We're grateful for every gift in Will, no matter the size. Every gift, big or small, helps to improve the lives and opportunities for people on the autism spectrum.

Suggested wording

Please take this information with you when you visit your solicitor to draft or update your Will. We suggest the following wording:

I bequeath to Autism Spectrum Australia "Aspect"
(ABN 12 000 637 267), The residuary of my entire estate

OR

_____ percent of the residue of my estate

OR

The sum of \$ _____

to be applied for general purposes (OR a specific purpose to be stated).

The receipt of the Chief Executive Officer or other proper officer of Aspect will be a complete discharge to my Trustee for this gift and my Trustee will not be bound to see to the application of this gift.

If you would like more information on how to leave a gift for Aspect in your Will please contact our gift in Will team on 02 8977 8354 or email giftsinwills@autismspectrum.org.au

A promise that continues to change lives

With the help of generous people like you, Aspect has been supporting people on the autism spectrum, their families and carers for over 50 years.

Our tailored learning environments allow children to build their strengths, explore their interests and develop life-long skills. And our adult services support adults on the autism spectrum to build independence and succeed in the wider community.

By investing in continued research, innovation, and more autism-friendly environments, your gift will help to ensure people on the autism spectrum have the best opportunities to overcome their barriers and achieve their goals. This is how we can make sure that no-one on the autism spectrum is left behind. This is the power of your promise.

Please

**join our Promise Program
by leaving a gift in your
Will to Aspect.**

**Together, we can create
a world where no-one on
the autism spectrum is
left behind.**



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