

What do you
think it will take
to transform
the world?



MARY MACKILLOP
today



It takes a True Heart

As a True Heart of Mary MacKillop Today, you share the belief that every person deserves the support they need to fulfil their potential, regardless of their circumstances. When you leave a gift in your Will, you use your true heart to empower people in need around the world.

Your gift will be used to provide people living in marginalised communities in Australia and overseas with access to education, as well as opportunities to create a better future for themselves and their families.

For example, your gift may support our work to close the education gap for Indigenous Australians, through our tertiary scholarship program. Or it might be used to fund our work helping women in Peru sustain and increase their incomes through small businesses so they can better provide for their children's education and healthcare.

When you remember Mary MacKillop Today in your Will, your true heart will help create a better future for many people living in vulnerable circumstances.





Creating a better future for every Australian

By reducing systemic barriers to education, Mary MacKillop Today is committed to helping lift the aspirations and achievements of our First Australians.

“I can’t change the world overnight, but if I can help one child see their own potential and value, I will be inspired to do that for the rest of my life.”

– Chloe, scholarship recipient.

Chloe, a proud Wiradjuri woman, is one of the 120 Indigenous students to have received a Mary MacKillop Tertiary Scholarship, since the program began in 1998. Many graduates are the first in their family to gain a university education.

One of seven children from a close-knit family in Gilgandra, in outback NSW, Chloe is determined to follow in the footsteps of her grandparents and stand up to the injustices of family violence, alcohol abuse and discrimination she sees in her community.

She decided to apply for a Mary MacKillop Today First Nations Tertiary Scholarship to help cover her living expenses while studying at University of Sydney. It meant she could fulfil her dream of changing the pattern of inequality for Australia’s Indigenous people.

“For me it’s not simply about giving back to my community, it’s about my family who still don’t have the same opportunities. It’s impossible for me to do nothing and accept that this degree of disadvantage is okay,” says Chloe.



Changing lives in communities overseas

At Mary MacKillop Today we believe everyone should be able to read and write, enjoy good health and have a sustainable future, no matter where you live.

In 2017, Mary MacKillop Today provided literacy training for 281 teachers in Timor-Leste.

From business development in Peru to women's leadership in Fiji, Mary MacKillop Today's programs overseas help to support and empower communities to address poverty and injustice.

Focusing on vulnerable communities, we continue the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop by partnering with local organisations and groups, to help thousands of children, women and families across the world realise their dignity.

In the remote mountains of Timor-Leste, Mary MacKillop Today has been committed to health literacy training for primary school teachers, to help improve long-term health outcomes for those living in rural communities.

Teachers are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to deliver vital information about basic hygiene practices in a fun and engaging way. Guilhermina Xavier Coelho, was thrilled to have the opportunity to learn about preventative health, sanitation and nutrition. She now uses music, games and drama to teach her students and their parents about the benefits of hand-washing, wearing clean clothes, and cooking nutritious meals.

Mary MacKillop Today works in Australia, Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji.

"I have learned a lot about basic health education over the one week program, and am now very eager to share what we have learned with my family, my students and our community," she says.



Mary MacKillop, a heart full of trust

Through Mary MacKillop Today, the vision of Australia's first Saint and of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is being realised.

Guided by the Gospel, Australia's first and only saint was a True Heart who saw the potential in all Australians. Mary MacKillop was courageous. She was a woman of action, who stood with the poor and the marginalised, and was committed to the life-changing power of education and a sustainable livelihood.

Like Mary MacKillop, we go where the need is greatest. With your help, we can continue her powerful legacy, providing compassion and care for people in Australia and overseas for generations to come.

"God kept my heart full of trust to make all come right."

“My hope for my gift is that it goes to where it’s needed, giving less-fortunate people a real chance in life. I know that with Mary MacKillop Today, that is definitely the case. It’s very hands-on and grass-roots, working with the communities in close consultation. They are really doing that work as an extension of God’s caring hand.”

– Dr Glenn Pearce



Glenn, a true heart

“Anyone making a bequest – no matter how large or small – is warmly embraced and made to feel part of the community. They go out of their way to make it a painless process.”

Dr Glenn Pearce was at mass with his wife and his father when he first heard about the work of Mary MacKillop Today and was moved to include a gift in his Will.

As a career educator, Dr Pearce believes in the power of education to transform lives. “All of the programs are designed to give students in Australia and overseas a very important start in life. They are making a real difference to the poor and neglected through highly ethical, empowering, community-based initiatives,” he says.

According to Dr Pearce, the gift in Will process is a lot simpler than it appears, thanks to the support of the Mary MacKillop Today staff.

FAQs

How do I write or update my Will?

A gift in your Will, no matter what the amount, can transform the lives of many people. If you already have a Will but would like to leave a gift to Mary MacKillop Today, you can do so by making a simple addition to your existing Will. This is called a codicil. If you do not have a Will at the moment, you can simply include a bequest when you write a new Will.

What kind of gift can I leave?

There are a number of ways you can leave a gift to Mary MacKillop Today, depending on your circumstances:

1. Residuary Bequest: This is the most effective way to leave a bequest to Mary MacKillop Today. It is a gift of what remains after you have made provisions for your loved ones. A residuary gift will keep up with inflation and will mean your bequest will help our projects long term.

2. Percentage Gift: Leaving a percentage of your estate allows

you to decide what proportion of your total estate you would like to give to Mary MacKillop Today. A percentage gift will also keep up with inflation.

3. Pecuniary Bequest or Specific (fixed) Sum: A pecuniary bequest is a fixed sum of money to be left to Mary MacKillop Today. This type of gift will not keep up with inflation.

I want to leave a gift to a specific country/project. Can I do this?

Yes, if you have a particular area of our work that is close to your heart you can nominate your donation to be directed to that area or otherwise, you can direct your gift to help those most in need.

Why is having a Will so important?

Everyone should have a Will. It ensures that the distribution of your assets is carried out in the way you want, and provides for the people and charities you care about.



Suggested wording for your Will

To include your chosen gift to Mary MacKillop Today when you draft or update your Will, we suggest providing your solicitor with the following wording:

“I give and bequeath to Mary MacKillop Today:

the residue, or

- [.....] percent of my whole estate, or
- [.....] percent of the residue, or
- the specific sum of \$[.....]

to be used for its general purposes.”

I declare that an authorised receipt from Mary MacKillop Today will be a sufficient discharge for the executor(s) or trustee.”

Your solicitor may also require the following details: ABN is 88 808 531 480

Your Will is an important legal document that must be properly prepared. We suggest you use the services of a solicitor or trustee company to ensure your Will is legally sound.

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