



Austin
HEALTH

Leave your
mark for
generations
to come



A history of giving

When an appeal was made to build a hospital that would address the desperate plight of those suffering from incurable diseases, Elizabeth Austin responded with a gift of £6,000.

Elizabeth's extraordinary act of philanthropy inspired others in the community to donate, and in August 1882 the Austin Hospital opened its doors.

*Every year,
Austin Health
provides more than
1 million
episodes of care*

From its humble beginnings as a home for those who were believed to be beyond medical aid, by 1935 Austin Hospital had become the largest cancer hospital in Australia. In 1956 services expanded offering a comprehensive spinal injury treatment and rehabilitation facility, and in 1960 it was officiated as a general health service with the opening of an outpatient and casualty block.

Since its establishment, Austin Hospital, now known as Austin Health, has evolved combining services

with Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, and the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre.



Inset: Elizabeth Austin.



Today, Austin Health is a leading specialist tertiary health service renowned for our work in cancer, infectious disease, liver transplant, obesity, spinal cord injury, intensive care medicine, neurology, endocrinology, mental health and rehabilitation.

Our proud history of delivering the highest quality care and improving the lives of our patients and their families is made possible

because of the generosity of Elizabeth Austin.

Recognised as a prominent philanthropist of her generation, Elizabeth's legacy continues to live on at Austin Health.

Leave your mark for generations to come. We invite you to join Elizabeth Austin's Circle - a community of committed ambassadors

who are passionate about shaping the future of healthcare.



Inset: Austin Health today.



The power of your gift

Through a gift in your Will, you have the opportunity to be a part of Austin Health's lifesaving work.



Equipment

Support the purchase of the most advanced technology and equipment that will aid in diagnosing and treating our patients.



Research

Support new discoveries leading to the improved diagnosis, treatment and cure of disease.



Area of greatest need

With time comes change, if you wish to support the growth of Austin Health, our leadership team can respectfully allocate your gift to an area of greatest need.



Leadership and training

Support training programs and scholarships that help build leadership excellence and allow further education for our medical staff.



*“Giving back to
the community is
in my blood.”*

Beverley Briese OAM
*President of the Friends of Austin and
Elizabeth Austin’s Circle Ambassador*

A chance to see the impact today

A country upbringing placing enormous importance on 'doing your bit' set the foundation for this remarkable woman's lifetime of community service and extraordinary support for Austin Health.

"My family was involved in the Red Cross, Young Farmers, Whittlesea Show, Whittlesea Historical Society, Austin Hospital and the local church," says Beverley. "My father and my brother are both returned soldiers and dedicated much of their lives to the RSL"

Beverley has been heavily involved with Austin Health for nearly 50 years. For much of this time she has worked full-time in the family business and volunteered her spare time to the hospital.

"I was brought up to understand that if you do well in life you've got to give

back," she says. "My whole family's like that."

In addition to making a gift in her Will, Beverley has also made significant donations, giving the Austin gift shop a much-needed renovation and establishing the inaugural annual Beverley Briese Nursing Scholarship.

"Community is everything to me," she says. "Country life has ingrained that in me and it's very meaningful to see the impact of some of my donations now, as well as know that I will still be helping others long after I'm gone."

***Inset:** Scholarship recipient Simone Patterson with Beverley at the inaugural Nursing Alumni ceremony.*



Keeping a loved one's memory alive

Ron Pfeil's story weaves together the strength of family ties, the sadness of loss and his unwavering love for his late wife Tessi. Ron is honouring Tessi through a gift in his Will.

"The smartest move I ever made was to ask that lovely lady to marry me," says Ron.

Ron lights up when he talks about Tessi, the love of his life and the happiness they had together for almost 50 years. However, the couple had their share of tragedy with Ron losing five women in his family to cancer and the loss of their son Greg who at age 38 succumbed to a brain haemorrhage.

When Tessi was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2005, it was the beginning of many visits to the hospital.

In 2015 Tessi passed away peacefully in the Palliative Care ward at Austin Health.

Deeply grateful for the kindness and care Tessi and his family received during their most difficult time, Ron makes a donation to Austin Health every year.

"I very much want to show my appreciation for how the wonderful staff at the hospital helped my beloved Tessi," he says.

"Tessi was always caring for others and I know she would be so moved to know that together we will be helping other patients and families in the future."

Inset: Tessi and Ron Pfeil.



*“I have been the
luckiest of men.”*

Ron Pfeil

Elizabeth Austin’s Circle Ambassador



*“My greatest wish
is that my gift will
help find new cures
and treatments,
helping future
generations.”*

Betsy King

Elizabeth Austin’s Circle Ambassador



The joy of giving back

Despite living a life touched by sadness and loss, Betsy King's resilience and hope shines through in her determination to give back.

Losing three of her four young children, then her husband, her brother, her parents and a dear friend, retiree Betsy King is no stranger to hospitals.

Enormously grateful for the medical care given to her family and friends over many years at Austin Health, Betsy has now found herself in a position to be able to give back.

"I've always led a modest life," says Betsy. "Some of my fondest memories are of the camping trips to the country I shared with my husband before he was diagnosed with cancer."

"Earlier in my life I wasn't able to give, but now I can and it's important to me that I am giving back. I know that my little bit will add up with others, like a jigsaw puzzle."

Betsy does what she can to help today by making regular gifts throughout the year, but it's also important to her that her impact is felt for generations to come by planning a gift in her Will.

"I'm a great believer in research, it's the way of the future to try to find better treatments. It may not help my generation, but it will help the next," she says.

"And it makes me feel good, knowing that no matter what happens to me, my gift will help somebody else in the future."

***Inset:** Gifts can support research, leading to the improved diagnosis, treatment and cure of disease.*



Honouring Ashley

Ashley Johnson, a keen fisherman, adventurous skydiver and talented watercolor painter was just 41 when he had his first liver transplant. When Ashley passed away at age 57, he left behind a lasting gift. Today his cousin Sue Mountney and close friend Chris Moore proudly carry on his legacy.

"It was a hard conversation to have," says Chris. "Ashley was in hospital and he wanted to talk about leaving a gift in his Will to Austin Health.

He'd thought about it for a long time and he knew what he wanted to do."

Ashley was cared for by Austin Health for many years and had a deep appreciation for the staff who looked after him. His gift to liver transplant research was carefully considered and deeply meaningful.

"He was always extraordinarily grateful for the liver that gave him a second chance at life," says Sue. "He knew someone

had died to give him that chance and it meant a lot to him to give back."

"Sue and I miss Ashley terribly, but we feel honoured to be his ambassadors, sharing his story and proudly continuing on his legacy," says Chris.

Although Chris and Sue wish Ashley could be here to see the significant contribution his gift is making, they are sure of one thing, "he would be absolutely blown away by the impact his gift is having!"

***Inset: Ashley Johnson**
(14/10/1960 - 21/09/2018)*



Ashley's gift is like a silver lining for us. It connects us forever to a place where his memory will live on."

Chris Moore and Sue Mountney
Co-Executors, Estate of Ashley Johnson



*“A gift in your Will can change
the future path of medical
care and research.”*

Professor Christine McDonald
*Director, Department of Respiratory
and Sleep Medicine, Austin Health*



A transformational gift

Made possible by the generosity of philanthropic donors, including a gift in her Will from the late great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Austin, Ruby Jessie Light, the new Centre of Excellence in Respiratory and Sleep Medicine is transforming patient outcomes.

Professor Christine McDonald has experienced first-hand the power of philanthropy in creating a vision for the future.



“Donations are crucial to public hospitals.”

"The new Centre simply wouldn't exist today if our wonderful community hadn't invested in their hospital," she says.

"The Centre brings together, for the first time, the sleep and respiratory laboratories, clinics and research areas, giving patients better and quicker care with easier access to clinical trials."

No matter how big or small, a gift in your Will has great impact.

***Inset:** Donors have supported the new Centre of Excellence in Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, which has improved patient care.*

"Through donations, you're supporting research, leading to breakthroughs in treatments, improving the quality of clinical care and saving lives."





Pledge today, change the future.

At Austin Health, it's our purpose to help people live healthy, productive and fulfilled lives.

Each day, our team of dedicated and compassionate health professionals deliver exceptional care for our patients and their families.

In your Will, once you have cared for your family and loved ones you may like to consider a gift to Austin Health to make a difference to the community you care about.

You can leave a gift in your Will to Austin Health in the following ways:



Fixed percentage

A fixed percentage of your estate allows you to nominate a specific percentage of your estate to Austin Health. A gift of this kind does not depend on your estate being of any set value or size and it is flexible enough to allow for changes in the composition of your assets or financial situation. No matter how your estate changes, whether it grows or decreases in value, your decision as to the proportions will always remain the same.



Residual bequests

A residual bequest is a gift which is provided after the remainder of your estate has been distributed and your loved ones, taxes and expenses have been taken care of – it may be the remaining amount after your estate has been distributed or it may be a percentage remaining. As a residual bequest is not a fixed financial sum, it automatically adjusts as the value of your estate changes.



Specific sum of money

You may nominate an exact dollar amount to gift to Austin Health, detailing the department or area in which you wish to support.

Let us say thanks

Leaving a gift in your Will can be a private and confidential decision. We understand some people may wish to remain anonymous or not be publically recognised, we respect that decision and our commitment to you is to honour your wishes.

We would appreciate however the opportunity to be able to thank you for your generosity on behalf of the hospital, staff, patients and families. So please do consider informing us of your decision.

For others, you may like to take on an ambassador role or simply connect with other

like-minded individuals who are passionate about transforming the lives of patients here at Austin Health.

We welcome you to join Elizabeth Austin's Circle where we have a number of special recognition opportunities acknowledging your commitment. We look

forward to sharing more details with you as a valued member of our gifts in Will community.

If you have any questions on the right wording or would like to talk to someone about leaving a gift in your Will, please let us know, we will be happy to provide you with the information you need.



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Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We celebrate, value and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.