



Continuing your
legacy through a
Gift in Your Will



Supporting the future of medicine

The Bionics Institute is an internationally recognised, independent medical research institute that solves medical challenges with technology.

We lead the world in the research and development of innovative medical devices and therapies to improve human health.

The Bionics Institute was founded in 1986 by Professor Graeme Clark, who led the team that created Australia's cochlear implant (the 'Bionic Ear').

Since then, the Bionics Institute has made a vital contribution to the research and development of technologies and treatments that have transformed the quality of life for people living with debilitating diseases all around the world.

Together we can transform the lives of people with a range of conditions, including hearing impairment, vision loss, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, stroke, arthritis, dementia, incontinence and diabetes.

Improve the health and quality of life for generations to come

Including a gift in your Will is one of the most generous ways you can give; it will help to sustain our life-changing research into the future.

Your gift will support:

- Innovative research of new medical devices and therapies
- Laboratory equipment
- Research fellowships
- Student scholarships

Given the nature of medical research, it can be hard to predict what may be taking place in the years ahead. We will make sure to use your gift for research projects that will have the greatest impact in the future. Your gift may enable the next great breakthrough.

Alternatively, if there is an area of research special to you or if you have a specific idea for your gift, please call our Head of Philanthropy, Ann Fazakerley, on 03 9667 7566 or email AFazakerley@bionicsinstitute.org for a confidential conversation.





Restoring the Magic of Hearing

Thanks to a significant gift in Will, our researchers have been able to pioneer the development of a world-first treatment for hearing impairment using nanotechnology to deliver drugs to the inner ear, repairing damage to the sensory nerves.

Hearing loss is the most common impairment affecting nearly half a billion people worldwide, set to increase two-fold by 2050. The impact of hearing impairment can go well beyond difficulty in communicating in a hearing world. Untreated hearing loss is associated with social isolation, depression, loneliness, and cognitive decline. Research suggests that people with even mild symptoms of hearing loss are twice as likely to develop dementia as those with healthy hearing. Those with severe hearing loss may be up to five times more likely to develop dementia.

The technology currently being developed by our researchers 'loads' growth drugs into tiny particles (nanoparticles) created through nano-engineering. Once delivered into the inner ear, the medication can restore lost connections between the nerve fibres and sensory hair cells to restore hearing.

“This gift really set the foundation for our work. We were able to hire two new scientists and create a particle manufacturing facility at the Bionics Institute. This facility is a huge step forward for the program as it enables us to develop and optimise the manufacturing process under controlled conditions. This is a key step in establishing a manufacturing process to produce clinical grade drug-delivery particles for a first in human trial.”

*/ Associate Professor Andrew Wise
Lead Researcher, Hearing Therapeutics*

How to name the Bionics Institute in your Will

All gifts, no matter what size, have a meaningful impact. Even 1% of your wealth or estate can make a significant and important difference to people living with challenging diseases.

You can decide how you wish your Gift in Will to be used by the Bionics Institute. You can also take comfort in knowing that your gift will be well managed in sustaining the Institute's future financial stability.

Forms of Gift in Will

There are different ways of including a gift to the Bionics Institute in your Will. The type of gift that is right for you will depend on your personal and family circumstances. Your solicitor will be able to help you choose the best option for you.



Residuary Gift

After making provision for family and loved ones, you can choose to leave all or part of the remainder of your estate ('residue') to the Bionics Institute of Australia.



Set Amount

You can leave a specific sum of money. For money to keep its value over the years, you can ask your solicitor to index-link it.



Percentage Gift

You can leave a nominated percentage of your entire estate.



Whole of Estate

You can leave your entire estate to the Bionics Institute of Australia.



Specific Item

You can leave specific items of value, such as property, art, or shares.

Recommended Wording

Here is the recommended wording for including a gift to the Bionics Institute in your Will. We advise you to take this with you when you go to your solicitor:

I give to the Bionics Institute of Australia (ABN 56 006 580 883)

[Please choose]

- a) the whole of my estate
- b) the residue of my estate
- c) X% of my estate
- d) the sum of \$X
- e) description of property

free of all duties and deductions, to be applied for the purposes of medical research by the Bionics Institute of Australia.

I direct that a receipt in writing by an authorised officer of the Bionics Institute of Australia shall be deemed proof of payment.

It is important that you use a solicitor or accredited Wills and estates specialist to make sure that your Will is legally correct and that your wishes can be acted upon.

All gifts in Wills should be made to the Bionics Institute of Australia, ABN 56 006 580 883.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need a Will?

A Will gives you the opportunity to say how you wish your estate to be divided among those who are important to you. By not having a Will, you will be letting the state decide who should benefit from your estate.

Talking about your Will with your loved ones is an important conversation to have. If your legacy wishes are not clear, there is a risk they will not be carried out as planned. Having a current and legal Will that has been discussed with those important to you avoids delays, problems and extra expense at a challenging time.

After ensuring your loved ones will be cared for, you may wish to include the Bionics Institute in your Will as a reflection of your passion, interest and support.

Regardless of age, by having a Will you can ensure adequate planning for the future and peace of mind. Making a Will is not expensive, but failing to make a Will can be costly.

What if I don't have enough money?

Often people feel that they do not have the means during their lifetime to help others as much as they would like to. It can be easy to underestimate the overall value of the assets that will eventually form part of your estate. This is particularly true if you own property, which may have increased in value over time.

By making a gift in your Will to the Bionics Institute, you can help support our life-changing work for generations to come – without affecting your independence and self-sufficiency today.

What if I have already written my Will?

People change their Wills for many reasons, particularly when their personal circumstances change. A minor change or addition can usually be made very quickly and simply, or a new Will may be written to ensure clarity of intention.

Do I need a solicitor to do this?

Your Will needs to be carefully written to comply with legal requirements and to ensure your wishes are acted upon. It is advisable to seek assistance from a solicitor or an accredited Wills and estates specialist. For suggested wording, please see Page 7.

Do I need to tell the Bionics Institute about a gift that I am leaving?

No, it is your choice if you would like the Bionics Institute to know about a gift that you left to us in your Will. However, if you have chosen to support us in this very generous and personal way, we would be delighted to hear from you so that we can say thank you, and ensure we understand the reason behind your gift and how you would like it to be used.

What will my gift go towards?

Given the nature of medical research, it can be hard to predict what may take place in the years ahead. By providing a general (sometimes called ‘untied’) gift to the Bionics Institute, you can be sure that your gift will be used for research projects that will have the greatest impact in the future.



Supporting the Bionics Institute in perpetuity

A gift in Will as an 'endowment' can be characterised as a legacy when the capital amount of the gift is invested (and cannot be accessed), and only the income generated from the investment may be utilised for the Bionics Institute's purposes.

By helping build our endowment and other financial reserves, you will ensure we continue to transform clinical practice through our high-quality research and commercialisation pathways for the next 40 years and beyond.

To achieve the most impact from your gift to support our research and patients, the Bionics Institute Investment Committee recommends that gifts of less than \$1 million be invested as sub-funds within our main portfolio. For gifts of \$1 million or more, the Committee may establish a separate endowment fund, to be managed by the Bionics Institute Board of Directors.



Our commitment to your investment

All matters related to the investment of funds shall be under the control and supervision of the Investment Committee of the Bionics Institute Board, except where an independent trustee has been nominated.

The membership of the Investment Committee consists of three Board Directors of the Bionics Institute. All members have extensive experience in managing investments. The current members are:

- **John Bryson**, the Chair, is a retired Equity Owner and Director of JB Were, an investment management and stock broking company
- **Phil Binns** is Vice President and General Manager at Agilent Technologies, a global life sciences company
- **Mike Younger** has 25 years of experience in investment banking and the funds management sector and is currently a portfolio manager at Prime Value Asset Management.

The Investment Committee is responsible for three separate portfolios. All investment decisions are made by the Investment Committee with the assistance of the Bionics Institute's investment advisors and brokers Evans & Partners.

The Bionics Institute's managed investments have performed favourably in relation to key indexes. In the last 5 years, the longest running fund under the management of the Committee earned 11.01% p.a., compared with the ASX 200 Accumulation Index, which earned 9.22% p.a. over the same period.

Our promise to you

Including a gift in your Will to the Bionics Institute is an important decision. If you do decide to leave a gift in your Will:

- We promise that your privacy and wishes will always be respected.
- We will spend your gift efficiently and cost-effectively, so it has the most impact in the area where it is most needed.
- We recognise you have every right to change your mind about your gift at any time.
- You are under no obligation to inform us if you have included us in your Will. However, we would find it helpful to know your wishes as it gives us the opportunity to thank you personally and to plan sustainably for the future.
- We will give you the opportunity to connect with the work we do, made possible by gifts like yours.
- Any information you share with us will be kept strictly confidential and will be used respectfully and appropriately.
- We will answer any questions you have, and we will keep you up to date with our work in the way that suits you.

Your gift will play a significant role in the future of the Bionics Institute

Remembering the Bionics Institute in your Will is a practical and meaningful way of making a difference in people's lives. It enables you to continue supporting causes that were important to you during your lifetime.

For a confidential discussion please contact:



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Gifts to be made out to the Bionics Institute of Australia, ABN 56 006 580 883



*Innovation
for Life*



**Bionics
Institute**

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