



**Fast-track  
a cure for MS.  
Care until we're there.**

**Protect future generations  
from MS with a gift in your Will.**





# Thank you for fast-tracking a cure

**Your willingness to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to MS Plus shows something wonderful. That you want to be there for people with multiple sclerosis – a helping hand, a caring presence – even after you're gone.**

One day, there will be a way to stop multiple sclerosis (MS), and even reverse its effects. With your support, that day can come faster, protect more people and change more lives.

Your gift will not only help people living with MS today by providing specialist support services but also help fast-track a cure for MS. It will help researchers understand the causes of this creeping and devastating illness. It will continue to boost knowledge of the way MS progresses, why every case is different and who it affects, until every case can be stopped.

And until MS can be stopped, it's important that people are empowered to live their best lives with it. The disease takes so much away. And for people living with MS, knowing that there are people like you willing to be there and share

the load is beyond reassuring. It gives hope of a life less burdened. Of a life full of strength and ability. Of a better tomorrow.

Gifts like the ones you're considering leaving in your Will give hope for the future and support for people living with MS until there is a cure. That's why I'm leaving a gift in my Will to MS Plus. I hope that you will see the benefits of doing the same.



*Laura*

Laura Henschke  
Future Planning Manager  
Gift in Wills Team



# On track for more than 60 years...



1956

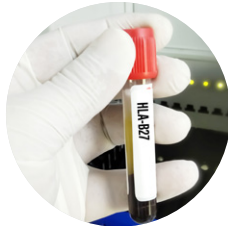
The first MS Society in Australia was launched in Sydney. John Godfrey and Ron Phillips were interviewed by the Sydney Morning Herald seeking help from the public:  
*"Australians with MS. You are not alone. You are part of a team, pledged to fight MS until it is defeated, until MS stands for mystery solved! Join the team. We need you."*

Credit: SMH, 12/12/1956



1963

The first known Australian MS Society medical research grant is presented in Sydney to Professor Lance's Prince Henry Hospital Neurological Science Unit to help unlock the secrets of MS and find ways to help.



1972

The first MS risk gene, called HLA, was identified and soon after confirmed in Australian patients.



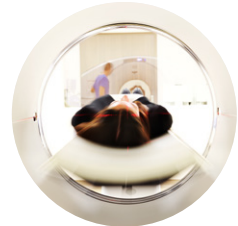
1974

The 'Golden Girl' of Olympic sport, runner Betty Cuthbert (1928-2017), is diagnosed with MS. She fought to help find a cure for MS, creating the Betty Cuthbert Scholarship and Fellowship.



1982

Following years of hard work, the NSW Government approved MS Society as the trustees of a newly-built 50-bed residential care site in Lidcombe. It meant people with MS could get vital treatments, such as physiotherapy and ongoing assessments, in one place. Similar Centres later opened across Australia.



1987

The first MRI machine is opened at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, helping to better research and diagnose MS.

For more than 60 years, MS Plus has been at the cutting edge of supporting people living with multiple sclerosis. A gift in your Will can help this hard work continue into the future towards a cure.



1992

The trial results of the positive effect of Betaferon on reducing relapses in some MS cases are published. Four years later, Betaferon was listed on the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).



2008

The MS Australia Brain Bank is opened to allow researchers access to high-quality tissue samples that will help them to speed up learnings about MS in humans.



2015

MS Plus Connect was relaunched as a specialist service providing information, advice and links to supports and services, including the NDIS.



2022

Dr Steven Petratos at Monash University looks closely at the molecules that damage the nerves in MS and ways to block them. He also may have found ways to reverse the damage.



The future

**You'll ensure essential care and support for people living with multiple sclerosis is provided and help us to fast-track a cure.**





# The fast-track to:

## **Providing vital support**

Through our cutting edge, specialist Wellbeing Centres ensure people living with multiple sclerosis will have access to vital allied health specialists such as neuro-trained physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and dietitians; helping people with MS navigate the NDIS, access to education, mental health, peer and employment support programs; and so much more.

## **A cure through research**

A gift in your Will could help to fast-track a cure for MS by powering cutting-edge research projects like these:



## **Halting and reversing MS progression**

Dr Kalina Makowiecki's research into nerve damage in people living with MS could lead to a ground-breaking, MS-reversing new treatment.

Myelin is the protective wrap that goes around nerve cells. In MS, the cells that produce myelin die. This damages nerves and stops them from sending signals to the brain.

It is not yet known how myelin loss leads to nerve cell damage and decline in people living with MS. But Dr Kalina Makowiecki's research aims to change that.

She is learning how nerves stop communicating after myelin loss and how this makes MS worse. This could lead to new treatments, halting MS progression and potentially restoring lost brain function to people with MS.

## Helping doctors to hear quiet MS deterioration

Progression of MS can, at times, be subtle and can be initially missed by doctors and patients alike. Professor Trevor Kilpatrick and Professor Tomas Kalincik are working on a new way to detect subtle changes in people's MS so that it can be caught and treated earlier.

It's often the case that a person's MS can seem to be under control but may be quietly deteriorating in the background. Once this becomes obvious and a person's MS gets worse, it can be too late to reverse the losses that have already happened.

The Professors are working on new ways to detect, measure and eventually treat subtle MS progression. Once complete, this research can lead to a clinical trial that could save Australians from silent MS progression.



# The fast-track to...



## Understanding

MS affects every person in a unique way. Your gift will help make sure every person living with MS today gets an individual assessment so we can understand their symptoms' impact on their lives and personalise their support and service program.



## Supporting

You will continue essential support for all those who need it; however, they need it through MS Plus Connect. MS Plus Connect is a free phonenumber that people with MS, their carers and loved ones can call to get everything from emotional support to well-being and symptom management.



## Educating

Your gift will help Australians with multiple sclerosis gain peace of mind by offering them the most up-to-date information and referral advice. Providing resources online, over the phone and face-to-face.





## Connecting

Your support will provide vital connections to people living with MS. MS Plus Peer Support program helps people who are living with MS connect with one another, carers and advisors. Sharing lived experiences with MS helps people living with MS to empower each other to live well with the disease – particularly those newly diagnosed, knowing they can reach out to someone who understands.



## Empowering

Medical research has already changed the trajectory of MS, empowering research to improve people's lives with advances in medical treatments. Continued and dedicated research will help to use technology to support people living with MS and unlock the mysteries of the disease so that cures can be discovered. Your gift to MS Plus might be the one that stops the disease in its tracks and may even help people to recover from it.



## Advising

With your gift we can continue our MS Plus Advisor support service. The team provides expert advice and guidance so that people understand and receive their full entitlements under the NDIS, so they have their best chance to live well.






# Fast-track to wellbeing

**A gift from you would help to develop further Wellbeing Centres – a cutting-edge response to providing vital services to people living with multiple sclerosis.**

Our Wellbeing Centres are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and access to vital allied health specialists such as neuro-trained physiotherapy, occupational therapist, dietitians and nurses. The centres will help people living with MS navigate the NDIS, and give access to education, mental health support, peer and employment support programs that are also critical for their wellbeing.

There are spaces to host educational workshops and popular classes in yoga, ‘dance for health’ and Pilates. The centres also offer open spaces for conversation with others who understand and can relate to the complexities of living with MS. It is more than just a centre, it is our “Project Wellbeing”.

In a number of locations, MS Plus offers on-site apartments that allow clients to visit for short stays and engage with the services available, and at the same time, can provide a level of respite for carers and other family members.



*“The most important thing I’ve learnt is that an MS diagnosis does not mean your life is over – you’ve got a lot more living to do! MS Plus can empower you to do anything you need to do. The new Wellbeing Centre will bring the whole neurological community together and connect you with life-changing services. Whether it’s financial assistance, education, employment support, occupational therapy, or peer support – there’s something for everyone and it will all be in one place,”*

**– Carol Cooke, AM**

Paralympian, MS Plus Ambassador  
and Founder of the MS Mega Swim







## Fast track to new drugs for progressive multiple sclerosis

Right now, Dr Steven Petratos of Monash University in Melbourne is looking for new treatments to stop MS from worsening in people who are living with progressive multiple sclerosis. His research may lead to new treatments to stop progressive multiple sclerosis, and even allow people to recover from it.

Dr Petratos has discovered one of the proteins that helps myelin-producing cells survive MS attacks. He has also shown that when given a drug that mimics the protein, the cells are able to produce normal myelin.

This means that with this treatment, the damage that occurs to myelin in progressive MS could be reversed.

**Dr Petratos and his team hope to take this forward to medical trials in people with MS. Breakthroughs like this and more in the future are the kind that you will be supporting when you help to fast-track us to a cure.**



# Pearl is fast-tracking a cure by leaving a gift in her Will

**Pearl's MS symptoms started suddenly and without warning in 1993.**

*"I went for a swim before work and kept swimming into the left-hand side of the pool. Then later that day, I simply couldn't see somebody I was talking to. I went straight to the doctor,"* Pearl said.

Back then, little was known about multiple sclerosis. It was some time before Pearl learned the truth – she had multiple sclerosis, and her life was about to change forever.

*"I sat in the doctor's surgery with my head in my hands. Then I went across the road to eat and sobbed for an hour through dinner,"* Pearl remembered.

Today, Pearl uses a walking stick and needs to hold her husband Ted's hand when she's out and about.



*"I have to be careful all the time. I can't go out by myself anymore. Getting about is hard work,"* said Pearl.

Multiple sclerosis has taken so much away from Pearl, but research has given her hope. There were no treatments available when she was diagnosed nearly 30 years ago. But thanks to breakthroughs in medical research, there are now 16 different drugs to treat multiple sclerosis – including one that helps Pearl manage her symptoms.

She hopes to fast-track a cure by leaving a gift in her Will, and is thankful that you are considering the same.

# Including a gift in your Will

A gift in your Will helps you to feel secure that those you care about are taken care of, while providing a way for you to leave a lasting impact on your world.

## First steps to leaving a gift in your Will

1. Get in touch with our Future Planning Manager, Laura, for a friendly chat about the many ways that you can be there for people with MS through a gift in your Will.
2. Talk to your loved ones about your plans and intentions with your Will.
3. Seek out a Solicitor, an online Will-writing website or a Trustee Company to help you to write or update your Will.

## The information you will need to include us in your Will

**Our legal name:** MS Plus Ltd

**ABN:** 66 004 942 287

**Our official address:**

54 Railway Road, Blackburn VIC 3130

**Our Gift in Wills office address is:**

Locked Bag 401, Lidcombe NSW 1825

For maximum impact, it's best that you leave your gift for MS Plus' unrestricted use. This means that we can apply your gift to where it is most needed at the time of it being received. So that we can thank you properly and make sure that your final wishes are properly upheld, please talk to us about your plans.



## Want to know more?

If you would like more in-depth information on how to leave a gift in your Will to MS Plus, please get in touch for your copy of 'A Friendly Guide'. This helpful booklet will tell you all you need to know about leaving your kind legacy gift.

**You can also find out more here:**

[www.myslegacy.org.au](http://www.myslegacy.org.au)

**Or contact the team - 1800 443 867**

### **Laura Henschke**

Future Planning Manager

0475 828 431

[laura.henschke@msplus.org.au](mailto:laura.henschke@msplus.org.au)

### **Rebecca Stalenberg**

Gift in Wills Manager

02 9646 0631/ 0419 229 538

[rebecca.stalenberg@msplus.org.au](mailto:rebecca.stalenberg@msplus.org.au)



**Your guide to  
leaving a gift in Will**



# For every Will...

**A gift in your Will would continue  
the essential work of MS Plus:**

- Advising people on how to live well with multiple sclerosis (MS), as well as helping their employers, family, children and friends to understand what to expect.
- Supporting people living with MS, and allowing them to support others in return.
- Driving research that will fast-track a cure, stop MS in its tracks, and one day allow people to recover from it.

**... Even 1% of your estate would  
help to fast-track a cure for MS and  
provide care until we're there.**



## Thank you

A gift in your Will helps to fast-track a cure for MS, and provide care until we're there.

Laura Henschke, Future Planning Manager  
Rebecca Stalenberg, Gift in Wills Manager

Call: 1800 443 867

Email: [futureplanning@msplus.org.au](mailto:futureplanning@msplus.org.au)

Visit: [www.mymslegacy.org.au](http://www.mymslegacy.org.au)

MS Plus ABN: 66 004 942 287

