



Make health equity your legacy

How a philanthropic gift in your Will can accelerate research to create better health for all



Burnet
reach for the many



A better, fairer, healthier world

Health equity means ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to achieve their highest level of health, regardless of their background, socioeconomic status, or life circumstances such as race, gender, location, or access to resources.

At Burnet, we believe that science and humanity are at the core of solutions to a more equitable world – a world where people, no matter who and where they are, have access to life-changing health solutions and programs.

Our intentions towards global health equity have never been clearer. Our teams drive progress in the most unlikely of places and under the most unfavourable of conditions. We're also paying close attention to the impacts that our rapidly changing environment may have on the health of people.

Your support can create a future where the quality of your health is not dependent on how or where you live.

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Health equity will only truly exist when science reaches far beyond race, gender, sexuality, status or location. At Burnet, we actively work towards a healthier world, ensuring all people have access to life-changing research and health programs.



Professor Brendan Crabb AC
Director and CEO

Together, we work to challenge global issues in:



Disease
elimination



Health security
and pandemic
preparedness



Women's,
children's and
adolescents' health

What is your vision?

Our beliefs can drive change for millions of people across the globe. Through a philanthropic gift in your Will you are making a powerful statement of your belief in a future where everyone has access to timely, affordable and effective healthcare.

In my time as a board member of the Burnet, I have had the privilege of witnessing our growth and increased impact with your support. We played a critical role during the COVID pandemic. Since then, we have launched the Burnet Diagnostics Initiative and expanded our vision to include the detrimental health impacts of a changing environment. We continue to progress our research on vaccines for infectious diseases such as malaria, coronavirus and HIV and to develop better diagnostics and treatments for hepatitis and TB and to help women, children and adolescents survive and thrive.

A philanthropic gift in your Will can expand the work of Burnet even further. Your gift can help address today's challenges – ensuring vaccine equity and widespread access to affordable life-saving treatments for our communities – but you can also help fund the solutions to the healthcare challenges of tomorrow.

When you consider including a gift in your Will to Burnet, you are declaring your belief in a future where healthcare is not dependent on who you are, or where you live. This fair approach to tackling some of the major illnesses of our time is what I value so much about the work of the Burnet team. This, I believe, helps our work to make such a positive difference in so many communities.

Thank you for considering leaving a philanthropic gift in your Will to Burnet Institute. Together, we can improve equitable access to health for current and future generations.



Mary Padbury
Chair, Burnet Institute



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The unique combination of medical research and public health action is what makes Burnet Institute so effective.

Mary Padbury
Chair, Burnet Institute



A proud history of better health for all

From our roots as a small virology laboratory at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital 35 years ago, Burnet Institute has developed into a world-renowned medical research institute with a humanitarian focus.

The Fairfield laboratories focused on common bacterial infections such as diphtheria, scarlet fever, and whooping cough that were common in the early 20th century. By the early 1980s, under the leadership of Professor Ian Gust, the independently funded research activities within the virus laboratory were consolidated as the Fairfield Hospital Medical Research Centre, then McFarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research. While Burnet maintained its wide remit across infectious diseases, in practice it was focussed on its two areas of special expertise, viral hepatitis and HIV.

During the immense challenge of the HIV epidemic in the 1980s the Centre and the hospital were on the front lines helping patients with much needed care, diagnostic services, and research.

In the years that followed, the centre took on ever greater responsibilities, researching and delivering solutions for public health issues, and ensuring they could be accessed, equitably, by people everywhere. With an increasing focus on international health and public health, and after 15 successful years at Fairfield Hospital, Burnet moved to the Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct.

By the time Burnet merged with The Austin Research Institute in 2006, it had gained a formidable reputation for its progress on some of the world's most deadly health issues in the most challenging of places.

Today, we have staff based in Melbourne, Papua New Guinea and Myanmar, and contribute to research and programs across the globe.

We continue to work with communities to gain a deep understanding of their challenges and share our knowledge. This exchange of insights feeds back into everything we do.

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Our point of differentiation from other research institutes would be a focus on ensuring that advances in basic research were translated into lasting health benefits, especially for people in the developing world.

Professor Ian Gust, AO*

Creating health equity around the world

Your support could help fund new research discoveries and improve the lives of people affected by serious health conditions for generations to come.

Burnet is committed to closing the gap in health equity with practical solutions for unmet health needs. We are the only non-government organisation and medical research institute to be fully accredited with both the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This status represents the Australian Government's confidence in our organisational effectiveness, governance and development programs.

Our reputation as a sector-leading medical research institute is second to none. This reputation, along with our many global partnerships such as the World Health Organisation, allow us to provide better healthcare for all Australians and our communities worldwide.

Every researcher, field officer, and staff member share a belief that unequal access to health is an injustice that must be righted. Through the support of generous people like you, we are getting closer to a future of better health for all.

Some of our work may begin in the lab, but we take this research into the field to make a sustainable contribution to health outcomes for people across the globe. We work with communities on the ground to share knowledge, educate, and gain a greater understanding of the challenges and risks at play. Together we can create a more equitable world, with better access to healthcare, so no one is left behind.

Where we work

Burnet works with governments, researchers, regional NGOs and affected communities globally. We direct our efforts to projects where we know we can deliver the greatest impact.



Vision

A more equitable world through better health.



Purpose

Create and translate knowledge into better health so no-one is left behind.





The power of your gift

Belinda Collins, Burnet Ambassador, and a working mother of three children, has included a gift in her Will for Burnet.

“Whilst I’m juggling young children and part-time work, my current family’s needs limit the financial commitment I can make,” she said. “A bequest is something tangible I can do now in support of the Institute, with practical benefits to flow in the future”.

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I am inspired by the work of Burnet, the dedication of its research scientists, and the vision of its management to focus on the disadvantaged. Burnet’s ability to translate its research in the laboratory to implementation in the field is unique.

“My eldest son, Sam, suffered some complications at birth. Thanks to Australia’s excellent healthcare this was a minor complication. The outcome would have been very different in many parts of the world,” Belinda said.

“I would like to think that my bequest will, at some future date, help fund a program that improves the lives of others who don’t have the fortune of living in a wealthy country with first-class medical facilities.

“I encourage everyone to leave a gift in their Will to Burnet – in support of the many people whose life opportunities are considerably improved by the wonderful work of the Institute.”

Our health work in action

We’re shaping a future where diseases are wiped out, women and children not only survive but thrive, and the world is fully prepared to face any health challenges that come our way.



We’re on a mission to eliminate hepatitis C in Australia by 2030, launching powerful campaigns to reach those hit hardest.

Uncovering how antibodies attack malaria’s weak spots is our key to designing powerful vaccines that save lives.



We’re saving mothers and their babies by discovering medicines to prevent preterm births and empowering families with education to reduce newborn deaths and severe illnesses.

Antimicrobial resistance poses significant threats to public health globally. We’re striving to protect human, animal, and environmental health before it’s too late.



We’re fighting to stop airborne infections in their tracks, using the hard-earned lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.



We’re working to stamp out TB and drug-resistant TB in Daru, PNG – a community overwhelmed by this deadly disease.

Our groundbreaking Stellabody® technology, makes therapeutic antibodies 100 times more potent and has the potential to transform treatment for infectious diseases and cancer.



The power of research

Paul Collins was only 25 when he was diagnosed with HIV.

Initially filled with trepidation and terror at the thought of his life being cut short, Paul found himself at the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, seeking out support.

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I remember so vividly the early days at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital: young people in the prime of their life, everywhere, all sick... Advances in HIV research since then have been astounding.

More than three decades later, Paul proudly describes himself as ‘living proof that HIV is a manageable condition.’ I am so grateful to all those who have played an integral part in my health management, for their guidance and their belief in me.

Crucial research conducted with the support of Burnet Institute has significantly improved outcomes for people living with HIV. Thanks to generous philanthropic support, researchers were able to launch a pioneering rapid HIV Testing Service, which has saved countless lives.

Like so many other Australians, Paul credits his good health to lifesaving advances in HIV research, including those supported by Burnet.

“I am proud to have left a gift in my Will to ensure that Burnet’s research continues to change the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS worldwide. It’s my way of making a contribution to their future and saying ‘thank you’ to all those whose work has transformed my own life.”

How to make health equity your legacy

Q. What type of gift has the most impact?

Any gift you decide to leave will have a powerful impact on Burnet’s future research. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of leaving a gift that you feel comfortable with. One of the most beneficial ways of including a gift in your Will is to leave the gift as a percentage of your estate. It will then hold value over time as well as remain in proportion with your remaining gift decisions. We recommend you speak with your solicitor to ensure instructions are correct.

Q. What is your suggested wording for my gift?

It is important that your Will is drafted correctly to prevent any administration issues arising when the time comes. And it’s very important to include our ABN. The following words can be used as a guide and be adapted as required to suit your wishes:

“I give the sum of \$[amount]; OR [insert percentage] of my residuary estate; OR [specific assets, such as real estate, shares, artwork, etc] to the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health Ltd ABN 49 007 349 984 for its general purposes [OR otherwise]. I declare that the receipt of the Secretary or other proper officer for the time being of the organisation shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my executors/trustees.”

Q. Should I tell my family?

We suggest you speak with your family about your intentions of leaving a gift in your Will to Burnet. This may help them to understand your values, why you feel strongly about supporting Burnet’s work and your long-term legacy.

Q. Can my gift become part of Burnet’s Endowment Fund?

Absolutely. Please contact our office to discuss your considerations further.

Q. Can you recommend a solicitor?

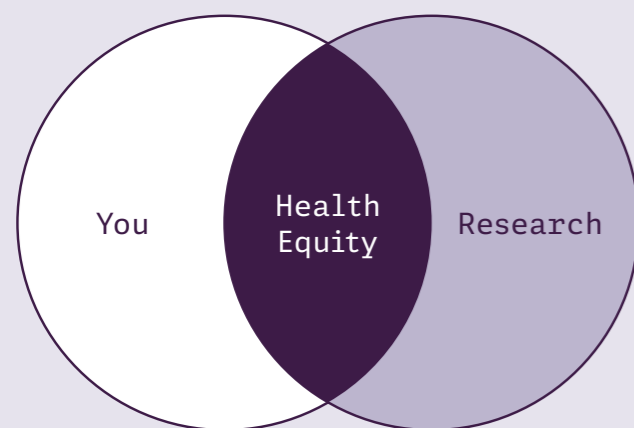
If you do not have a solicitor, your state legal regulatory body will have a list of accredited specialists. You can also search for a solicitor near you on www.includecharity.com.au/find-a-solicitor.

Your belief in research can improve the health and wellbeing of many people

Please consider a charitable gift in your Will to Burnet Institute, so together we can continue to create sustainable health solutions for generations to come.

We welcome any questions you have about our work, or how we will invest your gift when the time comes.

Feel free to contact our Planned Giving Manager on 03 9282 2221 to have a confidential chat or email bequests@burnet.edu.au.



Right: Stellabody® hexamer technology was discovered in the Hogarth Immune Therapies Group at Burnet Institute. Pictured, Dr Clarissa Whitehead, Dr Bruce Wines and Professor Mark Hogarth.



Stellabody®, a revolutionary antibody technology that supercharges the human immune response by 100 times, received a much-needed funding boost in 2023 through the late Mrs Phyllis Ann Schumann and the generous gift she left for Burnet in her Will. During her life, Phyllis was a member of the RAAF Nursing Service and dedicated her life to serving her country and the health of others.

Vale Phyllis Schumann 1934 – 2021



Burnet[®]
reach for the many

For more information
please contact:

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Planned Giving Manager

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email **bequests@burnet.edu.au**

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OVERSEAS

Burnet has offices or representatives in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Myanmar, and also contributes to research and public health programs in many other countries across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Europe, and North America.

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