

MAKING a BEQUEST to The REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA

Thank you for taking time out to make an enquiry for more information on this matter.

It is in no way an exaggeration to assert – as I do – that one of the most generous gestures a member or supporter can make to The REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA is a commitment to leave a certain amount or percentage of their estate – in their will – to The Party. A bequest is absolutely an enduring memorial; a lasting gift.

You will note that on one part of the Republican bequest brochure (which follows underneath) there is a section – it is paragraph #4 of the ‘Lasting Gift section of this document – where I state: **Even when we succeed in achieving the desired Republic there will *still* be a need for us to keep working to keep Australia ‘Republicanised’.**

It is not generally known that in Russia and Brazil, in comparatively recent generations in both countries, there were referendums to restore the monarchies in both nations. Truly! I have no doubt in my mind whatsoever that once Australia becomes a Republic the move will be on to return to the constitutional monarchy – sooner or later. And, if the restoration attempt fails once, then further attempts will follow by the Royalists/Monarchists and what I describe as the Pseudo-Patriots.

You see...most Australians wouldn't have the vision or the benefit of historical knowledge in these matters to understand what difficulties lay ahead on the Republican front once we positively and collectively take the inevitable step to become a Republic.

Anyway, as may be clearly construed, we urge all members who have turned 18 years of age to make a will – and have it properly validated. Not necessarily by a solicitor although, usually, it is practical and smart to have your will managed by a solicitor.

If you have made a decision to include The REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA as a beneficiary in your will – either your new will or your amended will – you will need to instruct your chosen/appointed solicitor accordingly. There are sufficient guidelines on the brochure for you to follow so as to get your intentions conveyed and properly notated.

When you have “got it all signed and sealed” (i.e. the will then you will need to forward The RPA a faithful copy for The Party's records. ‘Simple and quite straightforward, really.

Your kindness is very much appreciated. And Thank You, again.

I am, Yours Patriotically and for The Long Haul!

PETER CONSANDINE
National Executive Director

A Lasting Gift to The Quest of Australian Republicanism

The Republican Party of Australia (The RPA) is continually about making progressive steps towards achieving a constitutional, democratic Republic for Australia. The RPA holds annual national conventions and apart from consistent involvement in Federal elections and by-elections (and sometimes though rarely re-elections) The RPA produces and disseminates educational materials and position papers on the many inter-related aspects of Australian Republicanism. It is a costly enterprise to perpetuate and doubtless it always will be.

Where will The RPA be in years to come? **We must still be here!**

The workload of The RPA increases every year. We are working harder than ever to change the hearts and minds of our fellow-Australians in all walks of life.

Even when we succeed in achieving the desired Republic there will *still* be a need for us to keep working to keep Australia ‘Republicanised’.

Since we have been established (in January 1982) it is fair to claim that The Party is involved in the Australian political scene and will continue to be so for the long haul.

We hope that you will want to make a contribution to our ongoing endeavours by way of making a bequest in your will to The Party.

Making out a will is something many in our community are reluctant to do. However, it is in ALL our families’ interests for this responsible duty to be taken seriously. Furthermore, when a will is made, a substantial contribution may be left for your favourite cause, simultaneously.

If it is your intention to make a bequest to The Party then our best advice is that you should instruct your solicitor accordingly. Although not essential, utilising the expertise of a solicitor is highly recommended to ensure its legal validity. Wills need to be correctly drafted, signed and witnessed. A solicitor can ensure that your intentions are clearly expressed in the body of the will. A solicitor can also advise you on choosing executors and solicitors can also explain what death and gift duties amount to and keep the prepared will in a safe place for you.

Anyone over seventeen years of age, who is of sound mind should make a will. For most, it is reassuring to know that, upon meeting fate, your assets will be distributed as you have chosen that they be distributed and not by a government agency.

Your assets, of course, are your home, investment property, car, insurance policy, bank account(s), investments, jewellery and household goods. Provided you make a proper provision for a surviving spouse or surviving close relatives – more especially dependent children – then you are pretty much free to leave your property to whomsoever you wish or to whichever good cause you nominate.

Making a Will

According to law a letter or spoken promise has no validity. In the absence of a will the estate is distributed by a government administrator to the next-of-kin who may be a distant or even unknown relative.

It is possible to write out your own will but most people prefer to get the expert assistance of a solicitor to ensure they do not make any mistakes which would invalidate their will. Wills may be handwritten or typed. The law requires that you sign and date the said will in the presence of two witnesses, neither of whom are beneficiaries and *they* must also sign the document – preferably with the same pen. You must all be together when the will is being signed and witnessed.

You should appoint a person who is called an executor of your will to handle the administration of your estate, pay any duties, debts or expenses and oversee distribution to the beneficiaries named in the will. You can, if you wish, name more than one executor who could be your spouse, a friend, a neighbour or the designated solicitor to the proceedings. You should, as a matter of courtesy, ask first whether they are prepared to be one (i.e. an executor).

Changing Your Will

You may alter your will at any time should circumstances or your wishes change. The existing will can be destroyed or it can be stated in the new one that any previous will is no longer valid. Again, a solicitor can advise you on making alterations. It is usual for people to make out a new will when they are either married or divorced.

Making a Bequest

A bequest to a favourite organisation doesn't have to be an enormous sum or a grand property. But for many people, making a bequest will be their only opportunity to give a sizeable gift to help a worthy cause. Allocating a share of the total assets or all or a portion of the remainder after distribution, some saleable item like a painting, jewellery or car, a bank account or insurance policy as well as property or shares are all ways of benefitting an organisation in your will.

A cash bequest is not necessarily the best way to support a worthy organisation because what now may seem like a generous amount may not, in years to come, be anything like the level of support you had wished to bequeath. Percentages of residual cash might be a consideration, where applicable, though.

Remembering the Republicans to Follow in Your Will

A bequest to The REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA will decidedly help The Party to continue its grass roots community work to achieve the desired Republic *and guarantee the continuity of same.*

To avoid confusion and any future delays it is most important that the full legal name of The Party is stipulated in your will namely: The REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA.

It is also very important that your will clearly identifies that the bequest you are giving to The Party is for The Party's use or deployment as The Party sees fit in pursuance of continuing (Republican) constitutional reform and/or maintenance of the general Australian Republican ideal.

In the interests of the security of our families and any good causes we hold dear we should all put aside our natural reluctance to consider our deaths and make out our wills. If you start the process of making out or updating your will – now or at any future time – you will be tangibly helping The Quest of Australian Republicanism.

A LASTING GIFT to the QUEST of AUSTRALIAN REPUBLICANISM

Full Name (please print in legal black):

Preferred Salutation: Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Prof Capt Other:

Residential Address:

Postal Address:

Telephones: (Home)
(Mobile)

(Work)
(Fax)

E-Mail Address:

By the attachment of my signature to this document I declare that I have named
The REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA as a beneficiary in my will. A copy of
my will is enclosed herewith.

Signed:

Dated:

Full Name of Witness (please print):

Address of Witness:

Contact Telephone Number(s) of Witness:

E-Mail Address of Witness:

As Witness I verify that I am at least eighteen years of age *and* an Australian
citizen...

Signed:

Dated:

Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of my firm of solicitors:

Legal Contactperson:

**Return Address: The National Executive Director
REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA
PO Box 843
Castle Hill NSW 1765**