

Bequests

Bequests are an important source of income for carrying on the Society's work.

Those wishing to leave a bequest to Quakers in Australia may direct bequests to a Local Meeting or Regional Meeting, to specific funds or to the work of specific Quaker committees.

Gifts bequeathed simply to 'The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia Incorporated' go to the Thanksgiving Fund.

The Thanksgiving Fund was established in 1979 to help Friends implement appropriate concerns [SC 79.7]. Contributing to the Fund allows Friends and others to give practical expression of their thankfulness on specific occasions, such as births or anniversaries, or to mark the contribution that has been made by the Grace of God in the life of a much-loved Friend. The money then enables Friends and Attenders to pursue concerns of the Society, namely education, historical research, publicity, social welfare, spiritual healing, international order, children's issues and such other matters as the Society becomes involved in as a form of work and witness. Outside groups with similar concerns also may be supported. Typically, payment is made for administrative equipment and expenses, publications and conference costs, and assisting with honoraria and travel costs.

If it is intended that a bequest be given to a specific Quaker Meeting, Local or Regional, or that a specific committee should administer the bequest, the will needs to refer to that Meeting or committee by its full name.

The wording of a bequest is best made as simple and general as possible, consistent with the intention of the testator, to allow the Meeting or committee to use the proceeds most effectively. The following wording is suggested:

I GIVE the sum of \$..... (or 'my property at') to #..... and DECLARE that the receipt of the relevant Secretary, Treasurer or other proper officer shall be sufficient discharge to my Trustee/s.

Here insert the full name of the appropriate Meeting or committee, after checking it with the secretary, who can be reached by email at ymsecretary@quakers.org.au

If property is bequeathed to the Society, it proves helpful to include a clause allowing its sale, should this be deemed advisable by the Yearly Meeting, beneficiary Meeting or committee. Also, thought should be given to a parallel bequest of funds to maintain the property.