

# BEQUESTS

ESTABLISHING YOUR LEGACY THROUGH PHILANTHROPY





Leaving a philanthropic gift in your will, whether big or small, is a wonderful act of generosity. Thank you for considering ACON.



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## Our Purpose Our Vision

We strive to be a global leader in community health, inclusion and HIV response for people of diverse sexualities and genders.

For over 35 years, ACON has been helping LGBTQ people and people living with HIV take control of their health. We offer a range of services including HIV prevention, HIV support, sexual health, mental health, alcohol and drugs, safety and inclusion, domestic and family violence, disability and aging.

We continue to evolve as an organisation, developing significant new programs and services to meet the needs of our community, especially in the areas of training, capacity building, cancer prevention, and clinical testing and screening services.

Together, we work to create opportunities for people in our communities to live their healthiest lives.



“Thank you for thinking of ACON as a recipient of your philanthropic gifts. Bequests have been integral to our progress in our mission to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ people and people living with HIV. Your gift will make a positive and enduring impact to our work and the lives of people in our communities.”

Dr Justin Koonin  
President, ACON

## Our Pledge To You

We're here for our communities and with your philanthropic gift, you will be too. Receiving a bequest is a great honour and we are committed to ensuring your legacy to ACON benefits the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ people and people with HIV in our communities. This is our pledge to you.



- ♥ We will respect your privacy, always.
- ♥ We will thank you and honour you and your loved ones for your philanthropy, in accordance with your wishes.
- ♥ We will invest your philanthropic gift carefully and responsibly to ensure it has the greatest impact in our ongoing work to improve the health of our communities.
- ♥ We will continue to uphold our values of courage, innovation and excellence as we respond to meeting the changing needs of our communities.
- ♥ We will manage your gift efficiently and with the utmost care, sensitivity and respect, ensuring that your philanthropic wishes are met.
- ♥ We will continue our commitment to dialogue, transparency, accountability and keeping our communities informed of our work and our progress.
- ♥ We will give you the opportunity to connect with the work we do, which is made possible with philanthropic gifts like yours.

# YOUR BEQUEST WILL EXTEND OUR REACH & IMPACT

Bequests play an important role in the success, impact and reach of ACON’s work. A bequest made to ACON will result in positive change. Your philanthropic gift will make a lasting difference to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

We work for people living with HIV and people who are sexuality and gender diverse, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and/or queer.

We recognise that members of our communities share their sexual and gender identity with other identities and experiences and work to ensure that these are reflected in our work. These can include people who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people who use drugs, mature aged people, young adults and people with disability.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{TEST} \\ \text{OFTEN} \end{array} \right] + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{TREAT} \\ \text{EARLY} \end{array} \right] + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{STAY} \\ \text{SAFE} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{END} \\ \text{ING} \\ \text{HIV} \end{array} \right]$$

ACON’s HIV prevention campaign and programs are an integral part of the HIV response in NSW.



ACON’s training and consultancy division are best-practice leaders in supporting businesses and organisations in all aspects of LGBTQ inclusion

135,000+

safe sex packs were assembled and distributed by ACON to help our communities prevent HIV and STI transmission

and

3300+

meals served at our weekly meal service. The service provides people living with HIV access to vital food and provisions and reduces social isolation.

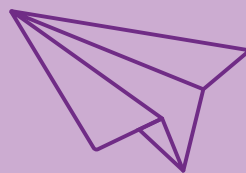
3000+

businesses and services are registered members of ACON’s Welcome Here Project, which helps create inclusive and welcoming spaces for LGBTQ people



10,000+

counselling occasions of service delivered by ACON counsellors.



ACON’s community health division spans a broad range of areas including mental health, alcohol and drugs, safety and inclusion, domestic and family violence, disability and aging.

## Power Your Philanthropy

We know that leaving a bequest is a carefully considered decision. It is your opportunity to support a charity and establish a legacy in your honour or in memory of loved one.

Bequests are one of our most significant forms of funding. Having the ability to commit funds that come from bequests allows us to fund long-term a vast range of programs and services.

ACON's work is extensive and varied, spanning diverse health areas. Your bequest will make a big difference and deliver positive health outcomes for our communities.



“Leaving a philanthropic gift in your will, whether big or small, is a wonderful act of generosity. With ACON, it can have an impact that lasts for years.

Thank you for considering ACON as a beneficiary of your philanthropy. Your gift will make an enduring impact, not just to our work, but to the health and wellbeing of our communities.”

Nicolas Parkhill  
ACON CEO

## Your gift will help our mission to end HIV transmission for all

Established in 1985, our early years were defined by community coming together to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in NSW, and we remain committed to ending HIV for everyone in our communities. We do this by delivering campaigns and programs to eliminate new HIV transmissions.

Providing our communities access to vital health information, resources and education forms an integral part of the strategy to end HIV. Every year, we assemble and distribute hundreds and thousands of safe sex packs comprising condoms and lube. We conduct hundreds of HIV prevention and awareness outreach sessions, both in-person and online. We convene peer education workshops and community forums relating to HIV and STI prevention across the NSW.

Supporting people living with HIV to live healthy and connected lives remains core to our work. We're here to help people with HIV take control of their health, as well as the health of their partners, by providing a range of programs and services including workshops and support groups, one-on-one peer support, counselling, home-based care and HIV health retreats.

Your philanthropic gift will help our work in ending HIV for everyone in our communities.



“We thank everyone in our communities across NSW for continuing to take action. Together we can end HIV.”

Matthew Vaughan  
Acting Director  
ACON HIV & Sexual Health



# Improving the health & wellbeing of LGBTQ women

ACON is here to support women in sexuality and gender diverse communities in NSW take control of their health by providing information and a range of programs, testing services, cancer awareness campaigns, education workshops as well as support services.

“ACON has made a core commitment to work closely with women from LGBTQ communities to better understand and address our specific health issues,” said ACON Deputy CEO Karen Price.

“We do this work in coalition, with the leadership and participation of all LGBTQ women. We are very proud of the programs and services we are building to meet the health needs of all LGBTQ women such as the breast health screening initiative Our United Front, the tobacco reduction campaign #SmokeFreeStillFierce, LGBTQ Women’s Health Conference, the cervical cancer screening initiative and The Inner Circle and our sexual health clinic, Check OUT.

These initiatives build on a legacy that reaches back more than 20 years.

“ACON has collaborated with research partners on the Sydney Women and Sexual Health survey, or SWASH, since 1996,” Price said. “Together, we have developed the largest and longest data set on women connected to the LGBTQ community in Australia – upon which we develop ACON’s health programs and policies and advocacy efforts.



“ACON has made a core commitment to work closely with women from LGBTQ communities to better understand and address our specific health issues.”

Karen Price  
ACON Deputy CEO

“We still have a long way to go in breaking down sexism and gender-based discrimination, and in making sure the voices of all women within our communities are heard. Ensuring that specific health issues experienced by all LGBTQ women are addressed through funding and support for community-led initiatives is vital as well,” Price said.



## Helping our communities reduce harm

The ACON Rovers program was established in 2003 in response to a spate of drug incidents in our communities. Nearly two decades on, ACON Rovers provide vital harm reduction services at LGBTQ events across NSW.

Rovers work alongside medical teams, security and venue staff to identify the early signs of a drug overdose among patrons and help prevent serious adverse incidents, and are highly valued and respected at the events they attend.

Ulo Klemmer is among 100 volunteer Rovers in NSW. He has been a Rover since the very beginning.

“Rovers are the eyes and ears for the medical personnel who are on hand at every party,” Ulo says.

“Rovers wear a very bright distinguishable pink vest. The pink vest identifies us as being Rovers and part of ACON. Our uniform attracts immediate attention and is the source of many encouraging comments like, ‘Thank you ACON’, and, ‘Love you, Rovers!’

“People recognise our pink vest and are now very comfortable to approach us and seek assistance for themselves, a friend or a stranger in need,” Ulo says.

In 2019-2020, Rovers identified 57 overdoses and worked with medical teams to support 93 community members experiencing distress and adverse health impacts.

Your support will help us to continue to deliver vital harm reduction programs like the Rovers, which strengthens our communities’ health and wellbeing.





## Making HIV & STI testing easier and more accessible

Getting people in our communities to test for HIV more often is vital to our efforts to ending HIV transmission in NSW. Making testing easier and more accessible as well as educating people in our communities about the importance of testing more regularly are important areas of focus for our approach to HIV prevention.

ACON's operates a network of HIV and STI screening clinics that cater specifically for LGBTQ people. These facilities operate in partnership with a range of clinical services. Importantly, they are community-based and peer-led, which means they are staffed by

people from our communities. As a result, we see many return visits by community members to ACON testing sites, including a[TEST] Oxford St, a[TEST] Chinese Clinic and trans[TEST], as well as the Check OUT: LGBTQ+ Sexual Health Clinic.

"I'm really proud of the work we do here at a[TEST], supporting people to take control of their health," said David Edler, who has been working at a[TEST] Oxford St for six years. Such is the impact of ACON's a[TEST] network that, between 2015-2019, we conducted over 29,000 tests and saw over 42,000 community members.

## We're here to build our communities' strength & resilience

While many people within NSW's sexuality and gender diverse communities lead happy and healthy and productive lives, there are a range of issues relating to poorer mental health outcomes such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicide ideation and suicidality, which affect a higher number of LGBTQ people compared to the wider population.

We're here to help LGBTQ people and people living with HIV take control of their mental health by providing information, a range of counselling services and care coordination programs for people with complex needs.

Each year, we conduct thousands of counselling sessions, and demand for ACON counselling and client service continues to grow, particularly with the advent of the pandemic.



"ACON counselling has changed my life. Without my counsellor's support, I wouldn't have started work again or managed to stay in my relationship. Thank you to ACON for providing a service from a counsellor who understands the LGBTQ community and creates a safe, non-judgemental and transformative space for us to thrive."

- ACON Client, 2020



# Supporting older LGBTQ people to live well, healthy and connected

“Older LGBTQ people have lifelong experiences of discrimination and prejudice, which can lead to depression and anxiety,” says ACON’s Russ Gluyas. “There are significant physical health issues affecting older LGBTIQ people such as smoking, substance use and cancers. And social exclusion and loneliness as one ages can have detrimental impacts on a person’s mental health and wellbeing.”

Russ is the coordinator of ACON’s Healthy Ageing Programs. He spearheads the LOVE Project – Living Older Visibly Engaged – which works to support older LGBTQ people lead healthy, active and socially connected lives.

“The LOVE Project exists to empower and support older members of our communities be active, connected and engaged.”

Throughout the year, the LOVE Project hosts community forums and workshops, organises regular drop-in meetings and social catch-ups and produces relevant health information and resources for older LGBTQ people.

So much of these activities that support rainbow seniors would not be possible without the financial support of the community.

“With your help and support, we can address these issues and help improve the health and wellbeing of older members of our community.”



“The LOVE Project exists to empower and support older members of our communities be active, connected and engaged.”

Russ Gluyas  
Program Coordinator  
ACON LOVE Project



## Here for trans & gender diverse health

Over the past few years there has been a real and tangible growth in demand to do better by trans people – binary and non-binary – in our communities, and ensure their health outcomes are equal to everyone else.

ACON’s Trans Health Equity Project was established in 2019 with the launch of ACON’s Blueprint, which offers a clear action plan to strengthen the health and wellbeing of trans communities in NSW. Central to ACON’s work in trans health is TransHub, our online resource written by trans people, for trans people, and which provides the information that many people told us was so desperately needed.

TransHub is an award-winning online platform for trans people of all genders, their allies, loved ones and health professionals. It reaches half a million people each month and continues to grow.

“TransHub gives support. It connects people with the best resources and the best support team in the world. Without it we are lessened.”

Liz Duck-Chong  
Acting Manager ACON  
Trans Health Equity

Fundraising is responsible for funding the vast majority of ACON’s work in trans health equity and your support will help us continue our work in supporting, celebrating and empowering trans people and communities.



## Making a bequest



If you are thinking about leaving a gift to ACON in your will, get in touch with us. We would love to hear your story, find out why you're considering ACON for your philanthropic bequest, and answer any questions you might have.

Leaving a gift in your will is a simple and easy process but we recommend you consult a solicitor who is experienced in wills and estates before drafting a will. Your will is an important document that must be properly prepared and executed. If you don't have a solicitor, you may consider contacting the NSW Trustee & Guardian (formerly Public Trustee). Visit [www.tag.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tag.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

If you already have a will, all you need to do to leave a bequest to ACON is to add a codicil – a short legal amendment to your will. It's important to check with your solicitor if a codicil is appropriate for the updates you wish to make.

## Any gift is welcome

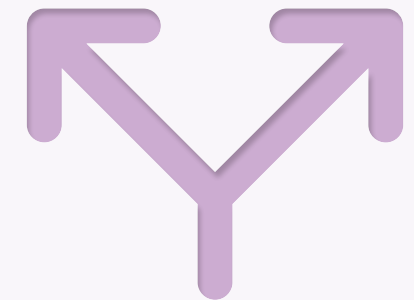


Anyone can leave a gift in their will to ACON, and every cent helps us to deliver programs and services that improve the health and wellbeing of people in LGBTQ communities.

Your bequest can be a specific gift or amount, or a percentage or residuary of your estate (what's left over after other gifts are taken out).

Your assets may include property, stocks, shares, vehicles, insurance policies, art and jewellery.

Your gift, whether big or small, will make an enduring impact to our work and deliver a lasting difference to the lives of the people and communities we serve.



### Directing your philanthropy

You can state in your will how your gift is used. Many ACON supporters have been impacted by HIV or other LGBTQ health issues, and so you may wish your bequest to be spent in an area close to you. However, ACON's work is broad and diverse, spanning many different health areas, and we respond accordingly to changes in HIV prevention, treatment and support, and LGBTQ health. Therefore, the more flexibility we have to invest your gift, the better equipped we are in our efforts to improve our communities' health and wellbeing. Choosing to leave a bequest for 'general purposes' enables us to put your gift to its very best use and to where it's most needed.



# Suggested wording for wills



After your family, friends and other beneficiaries have been taken care of, you can leave a gift in your will for ACON. You may decide to bequeath a residuary gift, a percentage of your estate, the remainder of your estate or a fixed gift like cash or other property. It's important that the wording is correct. Below is suggested wording for your will but we recommend you consult a solicitor to make sure you get it right.

If you have any questions regarding the correct wording for a will dependent on the type of gift you, or your client, would like to leave, please contact the ACON Bequest Team.

**"I give (free of any relevant duties):**  
*[Choose and insert the appropriate statement from the list below]*

- 1. The whole of my estate
- 2. *[insert number]* percentage of my estate
- 3. The residue of my estate
- 4. The sum of \$ *[insert the value of your first in cash]*

to ACON Health Limited, PO Box 350 Darlinghurst NSW 1300, for its general purposes. The receipt of the treasurer, secretary or public officer for the time being of ACON Health Ltd is an absolute discharge to my Trustee or Executor."

# Get in touch with us

We're here for health and with your philanthropic gift, your legacy will be too.

Please let us know if you choose to leave a bequest to ACON in your will, so that we can honour and acknowledge your generous decision.

On behalf of everyone ACON supports today and for years to come, thank you for including ACON in your will.

Together we can improve the lives, health and wellbeing of LGBTQ people and their families.



# Contact us

For further information or any assistance, email us at [bequests@acon.org.au](mailto:bequests@acon.org.au) or call our ACON Bequest Team on (02) 9206 2000.





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