



Help Change a Life Make a Bequest



Vision

*An Australian culture
that embraces people
with disabilities and
encourages them to
participate equally in
social and economic life.*

Mission

To be Australia's leading charitable enterprise in the PREVENTION of spinal cord injuries, CARE for those who have spinal cord injury and the support of research to find a CURE for spinal cord injury.

You can Help Change a Life

Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCI Australia) aims to improve the quality of life for people with a spinal cord injury; our services offer them hope. We have worked to promote independent living for people affected by catastrophic injury for over 40 years; providing accommodation, care and prevention initiatives.

A significant proportion of the public donations we receive are bequests. Often these special gifts come from people who have a family member, friend or work colleague who has suffered a spinal cord injury and believe their support will help change their lives for the better.

To leave a bequest is to make a permanent statement of your values. It is by this act that the world will remember you, what you cared about and for what you stood.

Bequests are also the most realistic way for many donors to leave a legacy. Over the past 40 years, hundreds of individuals, many of them of modest means, have left meaningful legacies to SCI Australia.



Simon's Story *Simon was 26 when he and his wife Clare were driving along a darkened road one evening. Out of the darkness a stray dog ran onto the road. Clare pulled over and Simon got out of the car and tried to coax the dog toward him, trying to prevent an accident. Without warning a car swerved to avoid the congestion caused by slowing vehicles and hit Simon at 70 kph. After many weeks on life support, doctors told him the damage to his spinal cord had left him paralysed from the chest down. Simon would never walk again. "Clare and I struggled to accept what happened, but she stood by me every step of the way. She gave me the encouragement I needed to ask for help so I could get back to living everyday life again".*

SCI Australia History

In 1966, a group of young people with severe spinal cord injuries were living in the spinal injuries ward of Prince of Wales Hospital. This ward had been their 'home' for over six years. A strong spirit of determination to become more independent had developed amongst the group. As newly injured people entered the hospital, the 'veterans' spurred on the newer people to be equally self-reliant. This spirit of determination would soon be put to the test.

During that same year, the group was advised that the ward was soon to be closed and everyone would be transferred to the newly established spinal injuries unit at Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay. After their arrival they learned that their beds were needed for newly injured people and that they would gradually be transferred to a geriatric nursing home. They were desperate to find an alternative.

On 4 September 1967 SCI Australia became a registered charity in November of that year. While accommodation was the major objective, it also recognised the need to promote unity between people with quadriplegia, provide recreational activities, and raise sufficient funds to enable the building of accommodation and employment facilities.

Over the next 20 years SCI Australia took on a number of commercial ventures and increased its fundraising activities to support the need for its services and programs. Federal Government assistance was finally negotiated in 1980.

Today, SCI Australia works tirelessly to develop and deliver programs to educate, support and care for the well-being of the Australian community. Injury prevention programs in the workplace, school and community; care and support programs for people with a spinal cord injury (and their families) and support for research to aid in the cure for spinal cord injury.

Since its inception, SCI Australia has encouraged members with disabilities to involve themselves in the organisation and community affairs as much as possible.



David's Story *David was severely injured when he fell from a partly constructed roof on a Sydney building site. His story is all the more poignant because he had noticed what he believed to be problems with the structure which went uncorrected and then, later, brought about his accident.*

"On the day of the accident I was walking across the rafters when one of them suddenly gave way and I fell about four metres to the ground. The impact damaged the vertebrae in my neck at C6/C7 and I had to spend six weeks in traction before the area was fused and stabilised".

David's accident sparked a major review of building site safety which prompted new regulations covering scaffolding, harnesses and roof railings.

Teamsafe

Developed by SCI Australia, Teamsafe is an injury prevention program aimed to reduce workplace injury and death. Tens of thousands of people are seriously injured in the workplace each year with a high mortality rate. In 2001-02 there were just under 140,000 accepted workers compensation cases which resulted in fatality, permanent or temporary disability. No statistic however can adequately account for the life-changing emotional impact of such incidents.

Teamsafe aims to motivate employees to take personal ownership of OH&S in their workplace. The communication model is designed to emotionalise the issue of safety and make it personally relevant to employees. Teamsafe Ambassadors are people affected by a spinal cord injury who engage workers by sharing their own experience of serious injury at work. It is hoped this practical prevention program will encourage and support better OH&S practices.

Anyone anywhere could Injure their Spinal Cord

When people are asked the question "what do you think causes a spinal cord injury?" the most common answers are accidents from such activities as diving into shallow water or abseiling down a vertical cliff face.

Whilst these activities have been the cause of such injuries, they represent only a small proportion of those injured. The reality is that more common accidents such as motor vehicle accidents and falls account for the majority of spinal cord injuries.

Through leaving a bequest to SCI Australia you can help us provide vital assistance and nursing care that people with spinal cord injuries need in order to begin living independently in the community again.

Wheelies Challenge

A school based prevention program utilising the skills of people living with a spinal cord injury. During regular lessons, students hear the stories from SCI Australia ambassadors and experience wheelchair sports and other activities that raise awareness of the issues faced by people with a disability. The program gives young people and their families the opportunity to consider “What if this happened to me or someone I know?” and “What can I do to help?” or “How can prevent this?”.

SCI Australia is here for those that need help the most. Our services provide people with support they need to return to their lives and their communities. The effects of a catastrophic injury can be totally overwhelming to the injured person and their family.

We can help them through those difficult times and guide them onto the road back to independence. You can help by including SCI Australia in your Will.

Thanks to their bequests, SCI Australia has been able to provide community and individual services and support where and when it is needed. Bequests are often referred to as “the gift that never stops giving”. These gifts are invaluable to SCI Australia’s community relations programs and services that focus on Prevention, Care and Cure by offering; Accommodation; Advocacy; Information; Rehabilitation & Peer Support and Regional Services.



Sheree's Story *At 27 Sheree had a great life living in Bundaberg, in a relationship, fabulous home, a great teaching job and weekends full of sailing, scuba diving and camping. On a sunny day her life changed dramatically following a car accident that left her with quadriplegia. After an eight month rehabilitation program and six week transitional program Sheree's survivor attitude gave her the strength to get back into the workplace and the determination to live a full and independent life.*

“I really wanted to tell my story, to be able to use my experience to help others and to prevent accidents”. Sheree's wish to help others now sees her as an SCI Australia Ambassador, as a guest speaker and facilitator in the school prevention program.



The Sargood Centre is an innovative service providing short term accommodation that maximises the physical and emotional well-being of a person with a spinal cord injury. The Centre will provide a range of living and management skills to increase the quality of life for individuals and family members as well as providing respite in an environment that is positive and enriching. The Centre acts as an example of state of the art accessible accommodation, and will assist in the development awareness and access throughout the local community.

The Sargood Centre will Change Lives

For people with a spinal cord injury, the traditional rehabilitation process involves understanding of their physical needs and the reliance they now have on equipment, social, employment and personal supports. When they leave the hospital environment, many people are unaware of the major impact these issues will have on themselves and their family members within their own home. Support provided at the Sargood Centre is designed to assist a person with a spinal cord injury and their immediate family to manage the ongoing impact that care will have on their lives. The focus of the Sargood Centre is to ensure that people leaving the service see the world as a series of doors that are open to them rather than closed and that they now have the skills to deal with whatever lies beyond those doors.

Situated on the Northern Beaches of Sydney, the Sargood Centre provides respite and holiday opportunities for people with a spinal cord injury that is idyllic and within easy access of many of Sydney's major tourist attractions. It also provides an opportunity for people who have lived with their spinal cord injury for some time to further enhance their skills in managing their care or to share their experiences with those who are newly injured. The local community and councils have shown their support and dedication to the Centre and the need to maximise access throughout the environment.

The Sargood Centre exists as an example of state of the art accessible accommodation for all housing providers. The service is to be continually augmented with technological advances and will actively encourage the development of equipment and aids that provide assistance to people with a physical disability.



Kelly's Story *At the age of only three, Kelly was injured in a car accident. Since that day, Kelly has lived as a ventilator dependant person affected by quadriplegia, yet nothing gets in her way.*

A talented mouth artist with two short stories to her credit, Kelly's ability to continue to live a full life is due to a strong will and the services available to help her overcome any obstacle.

She majors in counselling studies at university, and is planning to work with trauma victims after graduation.

Peer Support Group

Is a service provided by individuals who have themselves sustained a spinal cord injury. This team support injured people in their journey of recovery and re-integration back into the community and workforce. Support is provided to patients in hospital spinal units and people recovering in the community with their families and carers.

Help Change a Life - Make a Bequest

When making your Will it is important to consult your legal adviser to ensure that your wishes are recorded in a legally binding form. A Bequest within a Will is a clause that reflects your wish to leave a particular gift or share of your estate to a person or organisation.

Your Bequest can take the form of a specific gift (amount of money, shares, material assets) a percentage of your estate or a residual gift (once your family's needs have been provided for the remainder of your estate is bequeathed).

The following may be helpful when leaving a Bequest to SCI Australia

A General Cash Gift

I give to SCI Australia the sum of \$ _____ to be applied for the purposes by SCI Australia as its directors may determine. I declare that the receipt of the Director of SCI Australia or other authorised officer will be a sufficient discharge to my executors who will not be bound to see the application of this gift.

Gift of whole Residue of Estate

I give to SCI Australia all the rest and residue of my Estate to be applied for the purposes SCI Australia as its directors may determine. I declare that the receipt of the Director of SCI Australia or other authorised officer will be a sufficient discharge to my executors who will not be bound to see the application of this gift.

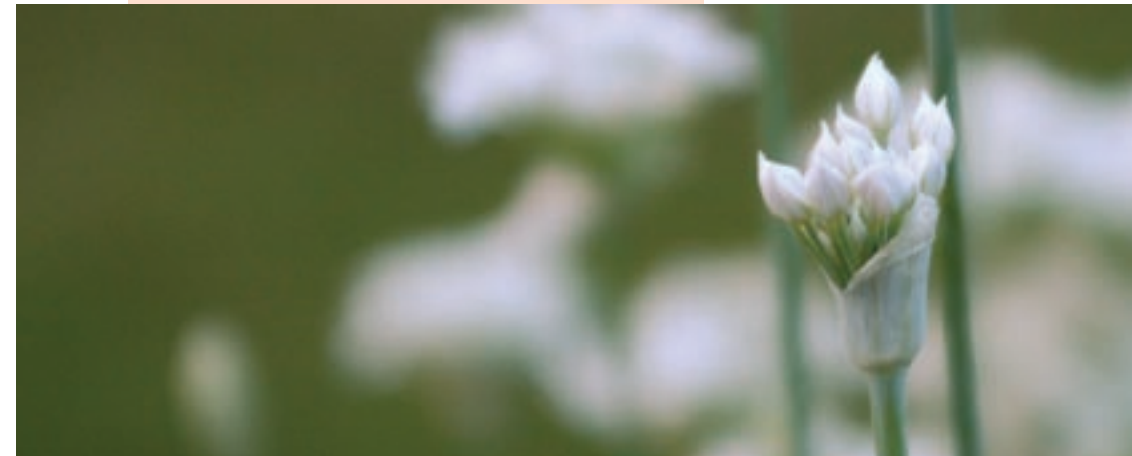
Gift of a Percentage of Residue of Estate

I give to SCI Australia _____ % of my Residuary Estate to be applied for the purposes by SCI Australia as its directors may determine. I declare that the receipt of the Director of SCI Australia or other authorised officer will be a sufficient discharge to my executors who will not be bound to see the application of this gift.

Gift of a Specific Asset

I give to SCI Australia _____
(describe specific property, e.g. real estate, art works, shares, units, debentures, or other securities in listed companies) to be applied by SCI Australia as its directors may determine. I declare that the receipt of the Director of SCI Australia or other authorised officer will be a sufficient discharge to my executors who will not be bound to see the application of this gift.

Many of us hope we can do something to make the world a better place. Your Will is a way of making this hope a reality; a bequest to SCI Australia is an investment for the prevention, care and cure for people who suffer a spinal cord injury in Australia.



Luisa's Story *“The memory of my own injury is still vivid. I was 18 and in hospital for surgery to remove a tumour directly behind my T1 vertebra. The operation didn't go well. I was left paralysed from the waist down.*

Fortunately I received very practical help and encouragement from SCI Australia Peer Support Mentors. They were inspiring. Somehow, they had kept their passion for life despite their circumstances. They gave me the courage to try to reclaim my own life.

Today, I have a job as a Peer Support Mentor. Each time I wheel into a spinal unit I meet someone about to face the challenge of their life. Together, we work as a team with family and friends to regain independence and hope. It is slow and hard work for all involved. But the moments of triumph make it all worthwhile!”



Help Change a Life Make a Bequest

Please Let us Know

We appreciate and understand the making of a Will is a personal thing. However if you do intend making SCI Australia one of your beneficiaries, we would like to know so that we may acknowledge and recognise your generosity.

All information received by SCI Australia will be treated in confidence.

Your name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Contact number _____

- I have made a Bequest to SCI Australia
- I have made a Bequest to SCI Australia and would like to receive further updates about your services
- I would like to discuss making a Bequest to SCI Australia

Please return this Bequest Advice to

Bequest Manager
SCI Australia
PO Box 6440
Alexandria NSW 2015
Australia

Phone 1800 819 775
Facsimile 02 9669 1761
Email enquiries@scia.org.au

For more information please visit www.scia.org.au



**Thank you for
your Support**