



Wills Update

News & stories from The Salvation Army Wills & Bequests team

Caring for the future - 'Will' you?

"A Will is so much more than a legal document. It is about making the choice to leave a gift of security to your family and future generations." Tim Hood

Australian cricketing legend Justin Langer understands adrenaline, risk and action, and yet he has urged all Australians to take care and caution when planning for the future of their family and community.

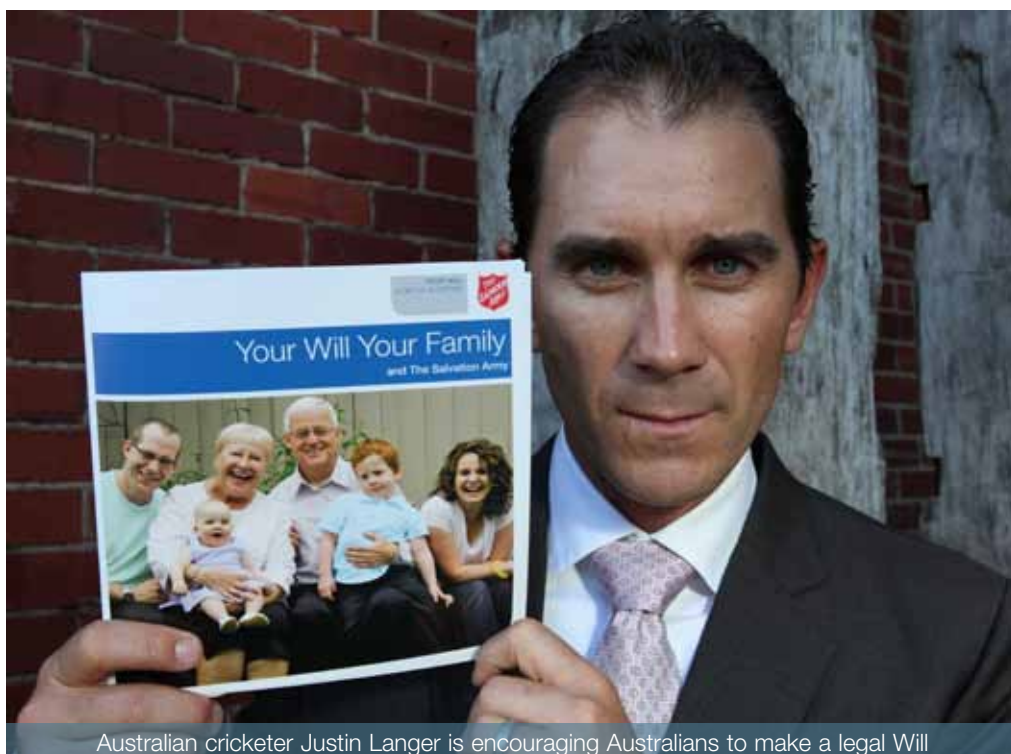
He has recently headed a Salvos public awareness campaign to encourage all Australians to make a legal Will.

Justin Langer played 105 tests for Australia between 1993 and 2007, and teamed with Matthew Hayden to be one of the most successful opening pairs in cricket. Some of his experiences have highlighted how uncertain life can be.

In November 2008, he was due to stay at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, in Mumbai, the night it was attacked by terrorists, brandishing automatic weapons. His trip had been cancelled only a week earlier, and he watched news footage, with a sense of disbelief, of the hotel's dome burning and people fleeing for their lives. He says: "...you look up and think, 'I was meant to be at the hotel and it's been bombed...'"

Justin, who is a father of four, believes that a legal Will is essential to ensuring any family's future. He says: "It's remarkable how many people don't leave a Will. If you don't leave one, people you love and care for may end up in a very stressful position."

Research for The Salvation Army, conducted through Roy Morgan Research*, shows that more than 36 per cent of Australians aged over 25 (equivalent to over 5 million people) may not have a Will.



Australian cricketer Justin Langer is encouraging Australians to make a legal Will

The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests Director, Tim Hood says: "What we are saying in this new campaign, first and foremost, is to look after your family. That's vital.

"Then we are asking people, when making their Will, to consider leaving a gift of hope to assist The Salvation Army to help those facing hardship within our community."

Tim says: "Bequests made to The Salvation Army are the major source of funding for capital development projects such as homeless centres, emergency accommodation, rehabilitation and community centres, and aged care facilities.

"Our Honoured Friends already understand the importance of making a legal Will to protect their family's wellbeing, and to also leave a lasting gift of hope to disadvantaged Australians.

However, we urge even Our Honoured Friends to talk to family members about the need for everyone to have a legal Will," he says.

"I would also urge people to keep looking at the bigger picture (and also) leave a gift that can help other people – to help The Salvation Army continue its extraordinary work.

"To leave a gift of hope all helps because The Salvation Army can't help people in crisis without funds. It's as simple as that."

Anyone wanting a booklet or further info can call a free national hotline on **1800 337 082** or visit salvos.org.au/wills. All enquiries are treated in the strictest of confidence.

**The Roy Morgan research was conducted by telephone with a random representative sample of 640 people, aged 18 years and over*

Salvos 'Red Cap' program begins in ACT schools

"Anger is a normal part of life, but many children do not know how to deal with their frustrations. Poor coping skills can lead to vandalism, self-harm and violence. Teaching students to manage their anger can significantly reduce harmful behaviour in a school or community." Karen Connors

Following the Canberra bushfires of 2003, which destroyed more than 470 homes, local Salvation Army personnel were contacted by two concerned Primary School principals to help support struggling students.

The relationship with the schools was so successful that The Salvation Army, with bequest funding from Honoured Friends, eventually appointed two permanent Schools Community Workers. Together with a group of Salvation Army volunteers, they now work in nine state primary schools and one high school.

They offer a wide variety of programs including breakfast clubs, mentoring, homework support, and are currently introducing a new program known as 'Red Cap'.

The 'Red Cap' anger management program, for 8 to 12-year-olds, was first developed by The Salvation Army in Canada. It runs over an 8 to 10 week period and uses the metaphor of a traffic light to encourage kids to stop (red), think (yellow) and problem solve (green) when facing stressful situations.

Salvation Army Schools ACT Community Worker (and qualified teacher) Craig

Midgelow says: "We were initially contacted by two schools after the fires, and asked to come in and just talk with the kids and play a bit of sport.

Lots of the kids had lost homes and depression was beginning to set in. There were also behavioural issues emerging and some kids were finding it quite hard to settle back to learning.

"We built great partnerships, and the schools just kept asking us back. Then as teachers eventually moved to other schools in the area, those schools contacted us too."

Craig relates to students who struggle with their schooling and so has established a kids club and youth group through his local Salvos Corps (church), to give further contact points. He says: "I actually hated school and was quite hopeless. But the one thing I loved was going to Salvation Army youth group for the confidence it inspired in me and the sense of responsibility it taught me."

Craig says: "We see that in the lives of others now. For example, we have a young man in early high school who we have known since he was affected by the fires. School is a great struggle for him. There is pain in the family and it has been a really tough time for him. But, the one thing he just loves is coming to our kids club and youth group. He feels like he's wanted and has responsibility. It seems to be the only place where his confidence is built up. He never misses."

Karen Connors, who oversees work in schools for The Salvation Army ACT and South NSW Division says: "We believe it is important to help address the things that make it



The 'Red Caps' program assists kids who struggle with anger management issues

difficult for young people and families in our society.

"One of the places where children spend a lot of time is in schools. So we help by providing a breakfast, helping kids to have better relationships with each other, helping kids during lunch times who are feeling isolated and need to learn how to make friendships and join into a group," Karen says.

She says the 'Red Cap' program will offer even greater support to children who have some serious emotional issues.

"If those issues are left to high school, or even later, they can become very difficult to deal with. 'Red Cap', and the other programs, help to give kids skills for life. We believe that benefits not only to those kids, but our whole society."

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