Leave a gift in your Will

Your gift will help us change the future of cancer care in Australia
Chris O’Brien was a man of leadership, vision and courage. He inspired people, both through his work as a cancer specialist and through his own three year battle with an aggressive brain tumour.

After his own diagnosis Chris maintained a positive and confident outlook throughout numerous operations and a variety of treatments including complementary therapies to ease the symptoms and side effects he was experiencing. He transformed his personal adversity into a national opportunity, using his experience to fight for cancer patients and their families.

Chris’ vision was for an integrated cancer treatment centre so that patients would no longer have to navigate their way through all the different elements of dealing with their illness alone.

Thanks to his vision, Chris O’Brien Lifehouse is Australia’s first not-for-profit hospital dedicated solely to treating both public and private cancer patients.
Transforming cancer treatment for Australians

Chris O’Brien Lifehouse provides a place of hope and healing through a unique environment that thrives on discovery, research and uncompromising patient-centred care for people living with cancer. We aim to turn new discoveries into better cancer care and to make things easier for our patients. With over 43,000 Australians dying prematurely each year from cancer we want to ensure the people we treat do not feel they are alone in negotiating the many confusing elements in dealing with their illness.

As Australia’s first not-for-profit hospital dedicated solely to treating cancer, our standards of excellence and uncompromising care aim to achieve lasting change in the way we treat and prevent cancer by bringing together all the elements of cancer research, treatment, care and support under the one roof.

It is thanks to the vision of the late Professor Chris O’Brien that Lifehouse and its patient focused philosophy was born. Named to honour his legacy Chris O’Brien Lifehouse is a Centre of Excellence that strives to break new ground not only in our collaborative cancer research but also in our compassion and respect for the people we treat.

I invite you to share in our vision of transforming cancer treatment for Australians by leaving a gift to Chris O’Brien Lifehouse in your Will. In doing so, your bequest will provide a lasting legacy for future generations of Lifehouse cancer researchers, surgeons, medical staff and cancer patients.

I hope you will share Chris O’Brien’s vision in building a future without cancer.

Eileen Hannagan
CEO, Chris O’Brien Lifehouse
As a comprehensive cancer centre dedicated to transforming cancer care in Australia, Chris O’Brien Lifehouse is at the forefront of cancer research, ensuring our patients have access to cutting edge treatments that deliver the best possible outcomes. A gift in your Will supports our goals of providing uncompromising care to people diagnosed with cancer, their families and carers, through discovery, research and technology.

“Medicine is constantly evolving,” says Professor Michael Boyer, Chris O’Brien Lifehouse’s Chief Clinical Officer. “To ensure we remain at the forefront of the latest approaches to cancer care and treatment, Lifehouse has dedicated research teams focusing on innovations across a broad range of areas relating to cancer treatment and care.”

“This provides a tremendous opportunity for our patients and team members to get involved in vital research, including trials of new drugs, devices and pioneering treatment techniques.

Professor Boyer says that such opportunities have already led to advances in lung cancer treatment. “Now, rather than using chemotherapy, we can treat patients with just one tablet a day. These kinds of advances, along with those strides we are making in melanoma, breast and other cancers mean we are fulfilling our mission of making treatment easier and helping people with cancer to live longer.”

“Our work at Chris O’Brien Lifehouse is about making a difference to our patients and their families. By leaving a gift you will be helping us to do even more.”

To learn more about research at Chris O’Brien Lifehouse visit: www.mylifehouse.org.au/research.
Simone Georgiou’s wedding day in November 2013 was a great day. Then, nine months later, she was diagnosed with bowel cancer. Simone has now had three firsts in quick succession, her first wedding anniversary, the first patient to have major surgery at Chris O’Brien Lifehouse and the first patient in our new Intensive Care Unit.

But she remains positive and is hopeful that her story might help others.

“No one talks about it, yet bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer in Australia,” says Simone. “Though if you get it early enough, it’s much more curable. Had I’d known the danger and the signs I would have been tested earlier.” But in Simone’s case, the warning signals were disguised by a bowel parasite she’d contracted during her honeymoon in Mexico.

“The bug was treated successfully with antibiotics. Then I fell pregnant, and with pregnancy there are more changes with your bowel. Sadly I miscarried but the problems continued.

“My GP got me to have a check-up knowing there was a history of cancer in my family. But no one thought it would be cancer.” Even the specialist was surprised at Simone’s diagnosis given she was only 39.

Simone is now through the first round of chemotherapy and radiation therapy. She has had her entire large bowel removed, meaning she has to wear a bag for the rest of her life. She has had a full hysterectomy to prevent any recurrence of the cancer. While recuperating from surgery, she says she’s had plenty of time to think.

“I hope good things can come from really bad things. I urge younger people to have a check-up if they have a history of cancer in their family and I want to do something to support other younger people with cancer.”

Chris O’Brien Lifehouse provides a holistic care for cancer patients making it more than just a hospital. Simone calls it a wellness centre, “That’s exactly what Chris O’Brien’s vision provided. You’re going in there to actually get well. You don’t feel like you’re in hospital. It gives you a mental edge. It’s a special little bubble to help you with your recovery and to heal better.”

A gift in your Will helps Lifehouse cancer patients like Simone to receive the best possible treatment and care whether or not they are a public or private patient.
Your legacy

You don’t have to be a doctor or a nurse to help improve lives. Planned gifts from people from all walks of life will help Chris O’Brien Lifehouse, a not-for-profit hospital, treat thousands of public and private cancer patients.

Your legacy will be an investment in the Chris O’Brien Lifehouse community, for you and your family for years to come. Every gift no matter how small will make a difference – and will offer people with cancer an improved future.

By leaving a gift to Chris O’Brien Lifehouse in your Will, you can help us ensure better outcomes and bring hope to people living with cancer. Many individuals choose to tell us about their bequests to Lifehouse and when they do we honour them with gratitude and respect as a special group of valued supporters.

A valid Will is the only legal way to ensure that your wishes are carried out and that those who you care about and the charities you support will continue to be looked after in the future. Your solicitor will help you word your Will in a way that ensures your Executors are able to effectively carry out your wishes.
Gifts for specific purposes
You might wish for your estate to support medical research at Chris O’Brien Lifehouse or for another specific purpose such as to support patient programs. The appropriate wording for this type of Will is:

*I give, devise and bequeath [percentage of estate/specific gift, etc] free of all duties to Lifehouse Australia Trust ABN 70 388 962 804 of registered office Level 5, 119 -143 Missenden Road, Camperdown, New South Wales 2050 to use towards [eg. research in the area of colorectal cancer] and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge for my executor.*

The Bequest Manager at Chris O’Brien Lifehouse would be pleased to assist you or your solicitor with your bequest plans and would welcome your call on (02) 8514 0356 or email bequests@lh.org.au.

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**I want to help change the future of cancer care in Australia.**

Please complete, detach and return this form to:
Bequests
Chris O’Brien Lifehouse
PO Box M5
Missenden Road NSW 2050

☐ I am interested in leaving a gift in my Will to Chris O’Brien Lifehouse.

☐ I would like to talk to a Chris O’Brien Lifehouse Bequest Officer to learn more.

☐ I have included Chris O’Brien Lifehouse in my Will and would like to receive regular updates.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________

_____________________________________
Telephone: (___) ______________________
Email: ________________________________

Thank you for your support. We look forward to matching your vision with ours.

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**By leaving a gift in your Will to Chris O’Brien Lifehouse you will be supporting our vision in transforming cancer treatment for Australians though an environment thriving on discovery, research and uncompromising care.**
“You never know if you or your family will need help from Chris O’Brien Lifehouse one day.”

Street Address:
119 - 143 Missenden Road, Camperdown, NSW, 2050

Post Address:
PO Box M5
Missenden Road
NSW 2050

Website:
www.mylifehouse.org.au

Fundraising contact no.:
(02) 8514 0006