

# TrusteeTalk



Welcome to Trustee Talk, in this edition we highlight some common myths about Wills and how you can make provision for your pets.

We also discuss the importance of having a valid Enduring Power of Attorney.

This important document outlines who you'd like to manage your affairs; should you lose the capacity to make decision for financial, health or personal matters.

If you'd like any further information phone **1300 360 044** or visit **[www.pt.qld.gov.au](http://www.pt.qld.gov.au)**  
You can also follow us on Twitter at



Regards

**Peter Carne**  
The Public Trustee of Queensland

## What is an **Enduring Power of Attorney** and why do I need one?

An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal document that outlines who you would like to manage your personal, health and financial affairs if you lose capacity for decision making.

People lose capacity for a number of reasons that may include intellectual disability, mental illness, acquired brain injury, dementia, accident or temporary illness.

Many people are not aware that they can nominate more than one Attorney and specify when the Attorneys' powers come into effect. You can also outline the types of powers that the Attorney will have to manage your affairs.

The Public Trustee acts as financial attorney or financial administrator for almost 7,400 Queenslanders who are unable to manage their financial affairs. If you have no-one suitable to act as your financial attorney, you can appoint us.

We can prepare your Enduring Power of Attorney for a competitive fee. Phone **1300 360 044** to make an appointment or visit **[www.pt.qld.gov.au](http://www.pt.qld.gov.au)**

## Let us join your conversation

If you're looking for a speaker at your next function then let us know. We're available to give free talks to your group about Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Executor Services.

**To book one of our speakers phone 1800 014 536  
or submit your request online by visiting [www.pt.qld.gov.au](http://www.pt.qld.gov.au)**



## Taking care of your pets

You can make provision for your pets in your Will. A way to obtain peace of mind that your pets will be taken care of when you die is through the RSPCA Qld's *Pet Legacy Program*.

The *Pet Legacy Program* is available to anyone who includes a bequest directly to RSPCA Qld in their Will. The program covers all pets from cats and dogs, to birds, mice and cows!

RSPCA Qld will care for your pets in times of emergency such as hospital stays and will re-home your pets into a suitable loving home should you die or need to move into nursing care.

As part of the *Pet Legacy Program*, RSPCA Qld will cover approved veterinary and medical fees for the lifetime of your animals.

Nominating your pets for the program is easy.



When making your Will with The Public Trustee you can choose to leave money directly to the RSPCA Qld and express that your pets are cared for through the *Pet Legacy Program*.

You then need to complete a RSPCA Qld, *Pet Legacy Program* enrolment form. For more information phone **07 3426 9937** or email [bequest@rspcaqld.org.au](mailto:bequest@rspcaqld.org.au)

## Common myths about Wills

**I don't have many assets so I don't need to make a Will.**

The Queensland intestacy laws require all Deceased Estates to be properly administered. Even if you think your estate is not worth a lot, it is still important you make a Will.

**I can just write my own Will using a kit or a note about what I want to happen.**

Be cautious if you are using a 'Do It Yourself' Will kit. You may not prepare your Will accurately or have it witnessed correctly. This can result in a Will being challenged in court due to confusion about how you wanted your estate distributed.

**I made my Will years ago so I don't need to update it now.**

Life events such as divorce, birth of a child, marriage, entering a de-facto relationship, death of a spouse or partner, or death of a beneficiary, can all impact your Will.

A Will should be a part of your life's journey, it needs updating as your life changes.

**At The Public Trustee it's 100% free to make or update your Will no matter how many times you change it.**

## Privacy

The Public Trustee collects and manages personal information in the course of performing its activities, functions and duties in accordance with The *Public Trustee Act 1978*. We respect the privacy of the personal information held by us. The way in which The Public Trustee manages personal information is governed by the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld) (the Act). You have previously supplied us with your personal information. We intend to use this information so that we can:

- ask you for feedback on our internal processes
- ensure you are aware of other services we provide.

We will not disclose your personal information outside of The Public Trustee unless we are required to do so by law, or unless you have given us your consent to such disclosure. You can opt out of receiving material at any time by:

- phoning **1800 014 536**
- emailing [clientenq@pt.qld.gov.au](mailto:clientenq@pt.qld.gov.au)

If we do not hear from you, we will consider that you have consented to receiving further communications from us.