



PRESS RELEASE

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The President of the Law Society of Tasmania Evan Hughes will help StGiles establish a StGiles Future Foundation.

The StGiles Future Foundation will not replace existing fundraising appeals, which StGiles relies on to meet annual funding shortfalls.

Instead, the Foundation will be a focused destination for bequests or significant allocations to allow StGiles to continue to innovate.

“It’s StGiles ability to be innovative and problem solve that makes us a sector leader and one of the most well-regarded disability services in Australia. We know Tasmanians want us to continue to innovate so we can help provide the best possible opportunities for people living with disability,” StGiles chief executive Andrew Billing said.

“The Law Society will work with the profession to encourage people to consider StGiles as beneficiaries of their Will,” Mr Hughes said.

For 80 years StGiles has successfully and prudently risen to challenges faced by Government changes to its funding, including the ongoing implementation of the NDIS, Mr Billing said.

Any donations or bequests made to the StGiles Future Foundation will be set aside to future proof StGiles so that Tasmanians can be assured that the organisation they have helped build for more than 80 years will continue to be innovative, caring and alive with ideas.

Mr Hughes has chosen StGiles as the Law Society’s charity of choice for 2019. His mother-in-law Kathy Douglas (nee Lynd) attended school and lived at StGiles as a child with polio between the ages of six and 12.

“StGiles gave me a good start,” Mrs Douglas said.

Mr Hughes said it was important to protect StGiles as a trusted and expert provider of disability services to Tasmanians from all backgrounds.

“Currently, every dollar that is donated to StGiles is put to work enriching and supporting day to day programs as well as meeting ever-present funding shortfalls,” Mr Billing said.

StGiles physiotherapy, speech pathology, occupational therapy, mobility and assistive technology services are provided to 6000 Tasmanians, state-wide.

“The implementation of the NDIS has tested StGiles and it is a credit to retired Chief Executive Ian Wright that we have been able to financially withstand the financial pressures of the past five years,” Mr Billing said.

“We believe now is the right time to establish a Future Fund to give Tasmanians certainty about StGiles’ role in supporting Tasmanians living with disability.”

ENDS.