



Trusts – providing asset
protection now and into
the future

An introduction to our trust management services



“

We are here to help people thrive

”

What is a trust?

Trusts allow for a separate structure to hold and control assets.

As the trustee is the legal owner of the assets, the trust provides a level of protection against personal liability if structured appropriately and may also allow you to arrange your finances in a tax efficient manner.

Trusts may also be used to allocate money for the sole purpose of caring for a family member who has special needs, or is a minor or is unable to manage money themselves.

We will help you determine whether trusts could benefit you in your personal circumstances

Australian Unity Trustees can assist you in determining which is the most appropriate trust structure for your circumstances.

We can assist with the establishment, administration and management of the trust either now or in the future.

As the role of trustee can be onerous, many people appoint an independent trustee, such as Australian Unity Trustees, to act in that position to ensure independence, impartiality and efficiency in their trust's management.

What types of trusts can be established?

Family trusts

One of the most common types of trusts, these are also called “discretionary” trusts. They can be established during your lifetime to protect assets.

Charitable trusts

There are different types of charitable trusts and which is most appropriate for you will depend on whether you wish to be part of the granting process now, whether you wish to have full control over the investment of assets within the trust or whether you wish to provide a lasting legacy in your will.

Compensation trusts

If a beneficiary receives compensation following injury, a compensation trust can be established to manage and protect those assets to ensure they are maintained for as long as the beneficiary requires.

Special disability trusts

As the recipient of a special disability trust can only qualify if they have a severe disability, assets held in the trust up to a legislated threshold are exempt from the assets test for Centrelink purposes. Whether established during someone’s lifetime or as a legacy after they pass away, special disability trusts can have a significant impact on a vulnerable beneficiary who might otherwise have lost social security entitlements.

Minors trusts

Protection of assets held for minors is often a priority for parents when considering what might happen if they were to pass away. A minors trust allows for payments to be made for the benefit of a minor until a specified age for education, health and wellbeing.

Superannuation proceeds trusts

A vital part of an effective estate plan, a superannuation proceeds trust allows for a superannuation death benefit to keep benefiting a beneficiary in the long term, minimise tax payable and provide a level of protection for assets held.

Community trusts

Australian Unity Trustees will work side by side with your community to establish protective structures, through the investment of funds and the distribution of income. It is important to achieve the best outcome for all community members. Working together we can establish structures to protect your community’s assets and ensure they are optimised for generations into the future.

Is a trust an appropriate structure for your estate plan?

To consider whether a trust might be an appropriate structure for use in your estate planning, do you:

- Have a family member who has a severe disability?
- Consider asset protection important?
- Wish to preserve wealth for future generations?
- Have charitable intentions that you wish to either begin now or in the future?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, it may be worth considering whether a trust structure could benefit you in your estate planning.

We offer an extensive array of personalised services to protect your assets, respect your wishes and ensure your best interests are always placed above anything else

Australian Unity Trustees

Estate Administration



We provide extensive estate administration services, as either the appointed executor in a will or where the appointed executor does not wish or is unable to act. Our service includes:

- Interpreting the will
- Determining beneficiary entitlements
- Obtaining probate
- Transferring assets and paying debt
- Preparing tax returns
- Preparing financial statements

- Assisting with funeral payments
- Obtaining letters of administration

Financial Attorney



We can act as your financial attorney or assist you if you have been appointed to that role:

- If appointed as your financial attorney, we will act in an independent capacity to ensure your best interests are the paramount consideration of financial and legal decisions.
- If you have been appointed as a financial attorney, we can assist you with the tasks you are unable to do, and provide legal, financial and taxation advice about how to undertake your role to provide the right outcomes.

Financial & Legal Administration



If we have been appointed as your Administrator, we can help you:

- Develop a budget
- Protect all assets belonging to you including the review of your insurance policies
- Identify and collect all income due to you
- Manage any legal issues

Trust Establishment & Administration



We can establish and manage trusts to help protect assets and legacies now and into the future, such as:

- Community and Native Title Trusts
- Family trusts
- Testamentary trusts
- Minor's trusts
- Superannuation proceeds trusts
- Special disability trusts
- Charitable trusts

Philanthropy



We can help you create a meaningful philanthropic legacy by developing a charitable structure tailored to your individual circumstances, philanthropic objectives and wishes.

It may be:

- Establishing your charitable foundation during your lifetime (there may be tax advantages in doing this)
- Establishing your foundation within your Estate Planning strategy, which is created on your passing
- Establishing a combination of both



“ Long before there was any formal welfare system, members relied on the support and benefits of mutual organisations ”

A proud history

With more than 175 years of helping our members thrive, Australian Unity is proud to continue supporting the lives of a million Australians.

We trace our roots back to December 7, 1840—in a pub on Melbourne’s Queen Street. It was at the inaugural meeting of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows that a newspaper proprietor, a surgeon, a chief constable, a glazier and a carpenter would build the foundations of what would become Australian Unity.

Over the decades, many dozens of other friendly societies and like organisations have joined or merged with Australian Unity. The Australian Natives’ Association, Big Sky Credit Union, Lifeplan Australia Friendly Society and many others are now part of Australian Unity. We carry on the traditions that formed these organisations.

Long before there was any formal welfare system in Australia, members relied on the support and benefits of these mutual organisations.

Today, we still aim to answer the very simple question that our members have always had: how can I provide for myself and for those I love, especially in times of need?

The environment that we currently operate in is one where chronic disease is on the rise, we have an ageing population and a need to increase retirement savings.

We believe a member-based mutual organisation is the best way to look after your interests and those of the broader community.

We’re a national healthcare, financial services and independent and assisted living organisation with 7,000 employees providing services to one million Australians.

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Our services



Health

- Health insurance
- Overseas visitors cover
- Dental services
- Chronic disease management
- Hospital in the home



Wealth

- Investments
- Philanthropy
- Trust and estate administration services
- Financial planning
- Investment, education and funeral bonds
- Banking and home loans
- General insurance



Living

- Aged care and accommodation
- Personal and business insurance
- Aboriginal home care
- Disability services
- Retirement communities



1800 87 87 83



australianunity.com.au/trustees