

# Wealth Reflections

*Insights on building, preserving and passing wealth*  
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## Mentors in Life & Money:

### Adding a human element to the passing of wealth

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Trusts and charitable structures are key tools in the passing of wealth. However they have a far greater impact if supplemented by a document or process that addresses how adult heirs can practice, and ultimately succeed, as wealth holders. We have been mentors to our children all their lives. Why do so many families allow wealth to pass without the human element that can safeguard the long term preservation of family financial assets?

#### A system of checks and balances

Legal documents carry certain intentions typically arrived at without heirs present. These written documents are generally developed by the professional community and are not designed to tell the story of who you are and what your personal intentions were at the point of attaching certain allocations or limitations to the quantity or use of an inheritance.

We recommend coupling your Wills and other carefully crafted legal documents with a human element that can help heirs understand your intent and equip them with advice and learning that will assist them to rise to the occasion. Developing a mentoring program to be administered by you, a trusted advisor, an expert facilitator or a wise and successful family friend is another great step. If such a program is documented the current generation of heirs can participate within it today and use it as a template to deliver something equally thoughtful when their children come of age.

The human element can also be captured by having the patriarch and/or matriarch tell their story. This can be in the form of a written

family wealth philosophy, an audio recording or a short film. It is a powerful experience for future generations and heirs to learn and understand the history and thinking of the person who built the original family assets. It encourages a level of future responsibility and stewardship.

#### Kids craving wisdom

As we develop relationships with our children, we hope that they will want to know our stories and absorb some of our experience and wisdom. We want to ensure they benefit from what we have learnt and don't make some of the mistakes we made. While young adults seem engrossed in their own lives and families, it can be refreshing to learn that many are craving a greater depth to the story they have watched unfold from the sidelines. Many do want to know how and why you achieved success. Through taking the time to add the human element of storytelling and mentoring, a family culture of sharing between the generations can be promoted and passed on.

#### The best intentions of a fireside chat

Many families have had conversations with their children about the family history and experiences. Can a conversation alone stand the test of time? Consider taking the extra step to ensure – through action or documentation – that your intent for your wealth is clearly and permanently available for future generations.

*If you have any questions about this, please give us a call.*