

THE MEETING

You will probably have less than 30 minutes for your meeting with your MP. Don't waste time getting to the point or on insignificant issues.

Be specific and clear about the problems and what you want. You should cover three main issues in your meeting.

How does this affect the MP's electorate?

Consider bringing along another person to the meeting to tell their story. Ensure that your guest is aware of the context for the meeting and keep them on track.

What am I asking for?

Consider the key reforms you would like to see. For example, do you want more meaningful employment for older people, or better promotion of healthy ageing?

What do I want the MP to do?

Political parties are preparing their policies they will offer voters in the 2018 Victorian election. Be specific in your requests.

Think about these questions before you attend the meeting.

Be clear and prepared.

Victoria Votes 2018

Make it Fairer for
Older Victorians

Advocacy Kit for Members and Families

MEETING WITH YOUR LOCAL MP

Local MPs meet with their constituents all the time, they are interested in hearing about issues that affect the local community.

They represent us in the Victorian Parliament and it is our responsibility to bring issues to them.

Here are our top tips for contacting and meeting with your local MP

1. Find your local MP

If you are not sure who your local State MP is, or how to contact them, search the parliamentary website

www.parliament.vic.gov.au/members

You can also find your electorate by searching the Victorian Electoral Commission website

www.vec.vic.gov.au

2. Do your research

Before you contact your local MP find out some information about them. Check their website, social media or media releases to see what motivates and interests them.

Are they in government or opposition? Do they have a ministry or a particular interest? Have you voted for them previously? The more you know about the MP the more you can tailor your request for a meeting.

3. Call your MP

Start off by giving the MP's electorate office a call. MP's receive a huge number of emails everyday so calling can cut through. You will probably speak to a member of staff rather than the MP themselves. This is fine as they arrange the meetings.

If you would prefer you can also send a letter to the MP to request a meeting. There is a template for a letter in this kit. Make sure you follow this up with a phone call.

4. Be clear. Be prepared. Be brief.

When you call the local MP's electorate office, introduce yourself and say where you are calling from. Make it clear you live in the electorate. Clearly explain the reason for the call, and that you would like a meeting with the MP to explain your concern.

Don't talk too much - keep it short, no more than 5 minutes.

Give the staff member enough information to convince them that they should get you a meeting. Offer to send through more information by email if that would help. MP's staffers are also busy. They receive and respond to many calls on a huge range of issues. They really appreciate clarity and brevity.

5. Arrange a meeting

During the call make it clear that you would like to meet the MP.

Following the call be sure to email or write to the office to confirm the meeting details. Ask for the best email address, to contact the staff member, during the call. Be patient and flexible about meeting times. MP's are busy and receive many requests for meetings.

6. Meeting your local MP

Turn over for our guide to getting the most from the meeting.

7. Follow up promptly

Make sure you follow up after the meeting by thanking the MP via an email. Maintain your relationship with the MP by keeping in touch about any developments in your issues.