

Meeting with your MP

Why meeting with your local Member of Parliament (MP) and candidates is so important

Members of parliament are elected to represent us. It is their job to take our issues and concerns back to Parliament and work on our behalf. But they can't do that if they don't know what is important to us.

We want to make sure they understand what the issues are with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and what we want done about them. We want them to focus on the things that matter to us. That is why it is important to visit MPs and candidates in the lead up to an election.

It is also important to meet with candidates as well as current MPs - so all parties understand what the issues are and what we think needs to be done. So we have come up with a few suggestions - just to get you started.

1. Find out who your local MP and candidates are

[Use our Find Your Candidates tool here](#), to find out who your local MP and federal election candidates are.

Enter your postcode and click ok.

If your postcode includes more than one federal electorate, you will need to choose which suburb you are in.

The tool will provide you with a list of names, emails, and phone numbers you can use to get in touch with your local MP and candidates.



2. Send an email to your local MP or federal candidates

[Use the email template here](#) to write an email to your MP or federal candidates. Make sure to include your name and address, and ask for a meeting to discuss what they will do to make the NDIS work for everyone in their electorate.

3. Phone your local MP and candidates

After you have sent your email, wait for 2 days and then phone the office of your MP or local candidate to ask if they have received your email and when they can organise a meeting.

Make sure you explain why you are calling. You can say something like this:

“

Hi, I am calling because I sent an email to [MP or candidate name] about meeting with them to talk about what they plan to do to make the NDIS work for people like me.

”

OR

“

Hello, I would like to speak with [MP or candidate name] about what is going wrong with the NDIS, and how they plan to fix it if they are elected in parliament.

”

Don't forget to ask if their office is accessible - and if it isn't, make sure this is an issue you raise with them, and let us know.

4. Once you've organised a meeting

Download the EAC Guide for MPs from the [Every Australian Counts website here](#).

About one week before the meeting email the guide to the MP or candidate so they have it before the meeting.

It is also good to let the MP or candidate know who will be coming with you to the meeting.

It is also likely that you will only have about 30 minutes for the meeting. It can be handy to jot down the main points you want to make so you don't forget. It's also a good idea to leave a bit of time for questions so the MP or candidate can make sure they really understand the issues you are talking about.

5. At the meeting

Make sure you print out and bring along the ["I Commit to Make It Work" poster here](#) and [the EAC Guide for MPs here](#).

Introduce yourself and anyone who has come with you.

Get someone to take notes if possible.

Explain why you have come, what is going wrong with the NDIS, and what you want the MP to do about it. You can use [this page of information](#) to help prompt you.

Talk about your own experience and the issues you have faced if you feel comfortable.

Ask the MP or candidate to write their name on the poster and commit to make the NDIS work for all of us.

Ask if it is ok to take a photo with the MP or candidate holding the poster.

Leave the Guide for MPs document with them so they can read through it later.

6. Agree on a follow up to your meeting

Ask the MP or candidate to email you or write you a letter telling you what they have done following your meeting.

Tell the MP or candidate you will phone their office to ask what they have done following your meeting.

7. Email or write to your local MP or candidates again

Write to the MP or candidate to say thank you for the meeting. You might like to share the photo of you together, and remind them of what they promised to do to make the NDIS work.

8. Let Every Australian Counts know how your meeting went!

Tell us what happened in your meeting on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) or email us at info@everyaustraliancounts.com.au. When you are on Twitter or Facebook please use the hashtag #NDISMakeItWork. That way we can show everyone how important it is to us that MPs take action on the NDIS.

And finally a big thank you to you.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to make sure our politicians know this federal election we need an NDIS that works for all of us!

