

# HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MP OR CANDIDATE TO REQUEST ACTION?

**You can help EHA with advocating for the profession. Here are some suggestions on how to contact your Member for Parliament or local Candidate to take action.**

## **Familiarise yourself with your MP or Candidate**

The Parliament website has a list of every MP with their contact details.

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Contacting\\_Senators\\_and\\_Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Contacting_Senators_and_Members)

**Labor:** <https://www.alp.org.au/our-people/our-people/?filter=sm>

**Liberal:** <https://www.liberal.org.au/our-team>

**The Greens:** <https://greens.org.au/candidates>

You can find your Member for Parliament by searching the links above or find information in your community for contact details of the independent candidate's office.

You can advocate for the Environmental Health profession by writing, calling, or meeting with your MP or Candidate. Advocacy doesn't have to be complicated or need to be a meeting—even a simple request for your MP or Candidate to raise the issue with their colleagues or in Parliament can make a meaningful impact.

## **Meet with your MP or Candidate**

Prepare for the meeting and make a note of any anticipated questions and your responses.

MPs or Candidates will not be experts on the complexity of the environmental health profession, so prepare and present key points to help them to understand the issues. Keep the message clear and concise, as time will be of the essence.

After the meeting, following up on any commitments or action points made at the meeting and share your experience with EHA for inclusion on social media and through EHA newsletters.

Write to your MP or Candidate (sample letter on the EHA website:

<https://www.eh.org.au/documents/item/1660>)

Keep your letter short and concise by preparing three to five key points (maximum two pages). Include facts and figures where possible and highlight the local impact of the issue.

Request that your MP or Candidate take a specific action. This could include making a speech or public statement, talking about the issue with colleagues and ministers, attending events, speaking to the media, and including the issue in their regular newsletter to their constituents.

## **Call your MP or Candidate**

Preparation is key. Before you call, write down one or two key points that you would like to raise, understanding that you likely will have no longer than five minutes on the phone call.

Request a specific action that you would like the MP or Candidate to take. This could include making a speech or public statement, talking about the issue with colleagues and ministers, attending events, speaking to the media, and including the issue in their regular newsletter to their constituents.

Be sure to take notes during your call, especially if any commitments are made or any actions to follow up on certain issues are promised. Follow up your phone call with an email thanking the MP or Candidate and their staff member for their time, and reiterate any commitments made on the call.

Thank you for advocating for the environmental health profession.

*'We protect people from hazards in their environment'*