

# MEETING WITH YOUR STATE MP



Our Bodies | Our Choices

Meeting with a local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA - our lower house) or a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC - our upper house) can be incredibly effective at raising awareness and putting the issue of abortion access and decriminalisation on a political party's agenda.

These meetings have the most impact when the MP is meeting with someone from their local electorate, and someone with lived experience of the issue. For example, someone that can speak to their experience of accessing abortion, or being a service provider.

## Who should I meet with?

Find your local member of parliament by entering your postcode and street name in the NSW Electoral Commission [website](#).

Once you have their name, you can find their contact details on the Parliament of NSW [website](#).

## You may also want to speak to an MLC

Unlike MLAs, MLCs represent all of NSW. If you do want to speak to an MLC, please contact us at [ourbodieschoices@gmail.com](mailto:ourbodieschoices@gmail.com) and we can put you in touch with the most appropriate one.

## How do I set up a meeting?

Start by emailing their electorate office to make an appointment using the above details.

Allow 3-4 weeks for a response and if you have not received one then call the office to follow up directly and arrange a meeting time.

## What we want to achieve from the meeting

- Inform your MP of the importance of abortion access and decriminalisation.
- Gain a commitment from your MP to speak publicly and in their party room

in favour of decriminalisation.

- Collect information on the position of MPs. Not all MPs are supportive of our campaign. Your meeting will provide useful insight into their position and any concerns they have.

## Before your meeting

- Do your research – where does the politician stand on this issue? Consider their voting record and any public statements. You can contact us to ask what we know as well.
- If going as a group, meet with everyone who will attend beforehand.
- Decide who is going to speak and what you are going to say – make sure you are telling your story of why abortion needs to be decriminalised in a clear, concise way that makes it clear what we want the MP to do.
- Brainstorm potential difficult questions you might get asked and how you would respond. We have an 'abortion fact sheet' resource for you to use.

## During the meeting

- Start by introducing everyone in the room, including where you are from and your connection to the Our Bodies Our Choices campaign.
- Explain why abortion access and decriminalisation is important.
- Share your stories with your MP.
- Ask your MP for feedback if they don't seem convinced. It is important to identify any possible barriers or further information that may assist shifting your MP to a position of support.
- Unfortunately not all MPs are pro-choice - avoid getting into an argument with your MP and be respectful of their opinions.
- Clearly put the ask on your MP - will they support the decriminalisation of abortion in their party room and in public statements?
- Ask if they would like to be kept up-to-date on the campaign.

## **Don't forget**

- Debrief after the meeting.
- Report back to Our Bodies Our Choices about how the meeting went and any commitments that were made.
- Always be polite and courteous and don't forget to follow up with the MP to thank them for meeting with you.

**What's next?** We are happy to talk through the next stages in your lobbying strategy. Get in touch!

**[ourbodiesourchoices@gmail.com](mailto:ourbodiesourchoices@gmail.com)**