

GETTING INVOLVED IN PARLIAMENT

Visit your local Member

Meeting with your local Member allows you to discuss a particular issue in person and assists the Member to keep in touch with the electorate.



Write/Email your local Member or a Minister

Your letter can ask for information or express an opinion. Invite your local Member to meet a group. This gives a group the opportunity to explain what is happening with an issue and allows the Member to listen to different people's opinions.

Organise a public meeting

Public meetings let people say what they think, ask questions, and listen to other people's ideas.



Form a delegation to meet a Member or Minister

A delegation is when two or more people representing a group or organisation visit a local Member or a Minister to put forward the views of the group or organisation.

Write a submission to an inquiry

Parliamentary committees often request people or organisations to send in a written submission about a particular matter. Sometimes the committee asks the person or group to appear before the committee to explain their ideas or opinions in person.

Organise a petition

A petition is a formal request for the Parliament or a Minister to take action, or not to take action, on a particular issue. Written in a special way, it is signed by people who support the request and is given to a local Member to present to the Parliament. Obviously the more people who sign the more likely the petition will have influence.



Form a lobby group

A lobby group is when people get together for a special purpose. Some lobby groups are temporary and disband when their desired action has been completed. Others are permanent and represent their group's views on a variety of issues.

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Write a letter to a newspaper

Many people write letters to the editor of newspapers and often other people will write another letter in support. Sometimes, if they receive a lot of letters on the same subject, newspaper editors will write their own story which creates more publicity.

Call/Text talkback radio

This is an opportunity for people to express opinions to which they can receive prompt reaction from the announcer and other callers. It also allows listeners to hear different points of view.

Arrange a demonstration

A demonstration can be a public meeting where speakers express their opinions or a march in the streets with signs and banners. The idea is to show politicians strong public feelings about an issue.



Join a political party

Joining a party allows people to be involved with decisions relating to party policies and in choosing the party's endorsed candidates for election



Nominate as a candidate in an election

Standing for election for a political party or as an Independent gives people the opportunity to be involved in political decision-making should they be successfully elected.

Vote in elections

Voting is the foundation of democracy in Australia. It is the vote of citizens that installs or removes governments.

Vote in referendums

A referendum is where electors in a state, a territory, or throughout the nation are asked their opinion on a major issue. Your choice influences the outcome.

