



Top tips for your Pledge visit

Here are some tips for engaging your local Member of Parliament (MP) and gaining their support to sign the Pledge.

About your local MP

Before your meeting you can research your MP's profile and check newspapers or Hansard for records of the issues in which they have expressed an interest.

You can find info about Federal MPs and Senators, including contact details [here](#).

Be aware of what your MP's party has already committed to in relation to social housing and homelessness, and how they talk about housing. If possible, reflecting their language in your argument can help make the issue relevant to their agenda.

Send through some briefing material to your MP about a week before the meeting but also take the material with you and hand it to them in the meeting. You can find the latest material on the '[Resources](#)' page of the Everybody's Home website.

In the meeting

Have someone take notes so you can record action points or intelligence gathered that can be used for future meetings

Remember that MPs are not usually experts in about homelessness or the housing crisis, and as much as possible you should aim to establish yourself as the authority who can help them understand it.

As time will be tight, it won't be possible to explain every complexity around these issues. The main focus of the meeting is to explain why social housing is needed to provide rental homes that people on low incomes can afford and reduce homelessness.

Provide facts about the rates of housing stress, homelessness and rental affordability in their electorate and how building more social housing would create urgently needed homes and also create jobs (see [housing stress in your area](#) and [Homelessness and social housing need in your local community](#) maps).

Ideally tell a story about a particular client and/or bring a person who has a lived experience of homelessness with you.

Be prepared to be asked some questions so use the [Info Sheet](#) so you can answer them confidently.

And make sure you leave time to get to the 'ask' about signing the Pledge.

Actions

1. Be as clear as possible in your ask for the MP to sign on to the Pledge.
2. Ask to take a photo with them for the EH website and for social media.
3. Ask them to tweet and put on their Facebook the photo or their support for the Pledge

At the end of the meeting

Get to know the name and contact details of the MP's staffer as you will likely be following up with them.

Thank them for their time, confirm what they agreed to do, and ask them to keep you informed on progress.

Leave an Everybody's Home mat if you have one.

After you leave the meeting

Send the photo to info@everybodyshome.com.au together with some key outcomes from the meeting.

Write something for your webpage/newsletter and post the photo on social media using #EverybodysHome and #BuildSocialHousing

In the following weeks, follow up on their commitment to social housing and the pledge.

Keep your representative informed of any developments.

And give yourself a huge congratulations. You did it!!