



Meeting with MPs and candidates | A guide for people who have experienced homelessness

The number one thing to know about meeting with decision makers like MPs and candidates, is to make recommendations about what Government can do to help.

Homelessness is often traumatic, and you don't have to share every detail of your experience. Instead, help them to see what they and the Government should do to end homelessness.

Your expertise counts. Ask yourself questions like:

- **What helped to end your homelessness?** It could have been a great support worker, a home that you could afford, or a whole team of people who helped meet your needs.
- Think about the time immediately before you lost your home. **What might have helped you avoid homelessness?** What could the government provide to people in that situation?
- **What do you wish the Government knew about homelessness?** This is your chance to tell someone who might be part of the next Government of Victoria.

Tell the MP or candidate about the things that can be done to prevent and end homelessness.

Of course, we don't always agree with politicians – and they don't always agree with us. Despite this, it's important to be respectful. Even if we can't convince them to commit to ending homelessness today, this meeting will improve their understanding of homelessness. It might be the first step in getting their support in the future.

If you haven't already, consider teaming up with the specialist homelessness service that supported you, and have them join the meeting. They can talk about the supports that they wish they could provide more of, if there was more funding. They can also help if you feel nervous.

Remember, the goal is to increase an MP or candidates understanding of homelessness, and help them see what they can do to end it. You are an expert in this, and you're sharing your valuable knowledge and experience.