

## **Funding For Victorians Living with Epilepsy Campaign Kit**

One of the most powerful ways to gain the attention of MPs is to share your personal story about Epilepsy. But before you do so, consider whether you want your story to be shared publicly.

That is because a MP can raise constituent's concerns in Parliament. If you want to protect your privacy (eg, tell your story but keep your name private), you need to advise the MP and their staff.

### **How should I approach my Member of Parliament?**

The Victorian Government now makes it as easy as possible for community members to get in touch with MPs in the Upper and Lower Houses, as well as Ministers and Shadow Ministers.

### **How to find your local member:**

You can find local MPs' names, contact details, biographies and ways to get in touch with them by conducting a member search –

[www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/people-in-parliament/members-search/search-members](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/people-in-parliament/members-search/search-members)

If you are having any difficulty identifying who you should contact, get in touch with Epilepsy Foundation and we can assist you.

Key issues you may want to discuss:

- your Epilepsy experience
- how Epilepsy has affected your life
- how Epilepsy Foundation has supported you
- how your situation could be improved
- what impact the withdrawal of Epilepsy Foundation services will have on you.

### **How do I request a meeting?**

You can request a meeting by calling the MP's electorate office – the staff member will ask the purpose of your meeting and try and find a time that best suits you all.

Remember that politicians are often very busy – so the earlier you can arrange a meeting the better.

## How should I prepare for my meeting?

Remember this is a chance for your local MP to be across local issues.

Ways of preparing for your meeting:

- You may want to bring someone with you, but be sure to let electorate staff know of this in advance.
- Usually you will only have 15 minutes for your meeting, so it is a good idea to go into it with dot-points of the key issues you would like to discuss.
- Arrive to your meeting at least 10 minutes early and be sure to turn off your mobile phone.
- Thank the local MP for taking the time to meet with you and comment on any good work you feel he/she has done for the community.
- Introduce your experience with Epilepsy, how it has impacted you and your family and what you feel needs to be done to ensure ongoing support for the Epilepsy community in Victoria.
- Refer to the key statistical information (attached) that Epilepsy Foundation is campaigning for and how addressing these are positive for you, your family and others with Epilepsy.
- Outline why you are concerned that funding for Epilepsy Foundation is not confirmed beyond June 2019 and what could happen if funding is taken away.
- Ask your local Member to bring these issues to the attention of the Premier Daniel Andrews, Deputy Premier James Merlino and the Leader of the Opposition Matthew Guy.
- Ask your local MP to raise this issue at their Party Meetings and with the Minister for Health Jill Hennessy and Shadow Minister for Health Mary Wooldridge and to let you know their response (it is vital to leave the MP an action and reason to respond to you).
- Thank the person for their time and let them know they are welcome to contact Epilepsy Foundation's CEO Graeme Shears for further information about Epilepsy issues in Victoria.
- Write a letter or email to formally thank the MP for their time and reiterate any commitments discussed during the meeting and your expectation for them to contact you following a response from the Minister/ Shadow Minister.

Remember if you need any assistance you can contact us on 8809 0600 or email :

[epilepsy@epilepsyfoundation.org.au](mailto:epilepsy@epilepsyfoundation.org.au)