



## How to lobby your local federal MP

**People with Intellectual Disability are dying 27 years earlier than the general population. Up to half the deaths of people with intellectual disability are preventable.**

**We need to fix this.**

You can help by asking your local federal member of parliament (MP) to support the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability. The Roadmap has been developed with the Department of Health. It contains good programs to improve the health of people with intellectual disability. The most important part of the Roadmap is the creation of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

There will be a federal election very soon. We need to know that the members of parliament we elect will support the implementation of the Roadmap and the early establishment of the National Centre of Excellence.

## **How do I lobby my local federal MP?**

### **1. Find out who is your local federal MP**

If you don't know which electorate you are in you can go to <https://electorate.aec.gov.au/> and type in your suburb.

To find the name of your federal MP, click on the name of your **electorate**.

You can then find the contact details for your federal MP at [https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members) then click on the member's name.

### **2. Contact your MP**

Don't forget to be polite when you phone or email your MP.

#### **Explain why you are phoning/emailing:**

"I am calling because I think our health system in Australia is failing people with intellectual disability."

"I would like to speak to (MP's name) because I want to know that they will support the implementation of the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability."

**Tell your MP what you would like them to do:**

“I would like you to personally commit to supporting the implementation of the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability.

“The most important part of the Roadmap is the creation of the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health. The Centre is essential to the success of the Roadmap.”

“I would like you to also secure commitment to support the Roadmap and the National Centre of Excellence from your political party.”

**What will be your follow-up request?**

See the list at the end of this document of suggested follow up requests of your MP.

**3. Go and meet with your local MP**

**Write a letter to your local MP**

Ask to meet with them to speak about the fact that people with intellectual disability are dying 27 years earlier than most people and up to half their deaths are preventable.

Tell them you are seeking their support for the National Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disability and the National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.

### **Wait 48 hours then phone your MP's office**

Ask if they have received your letter and when a meeting can be arranged.

### **Once the meeting is arranged**

Send the MP the **MP Briefing paper** a few days before the meeting.

Tell the MP who will be coming with you to the meeting.

### **At the meeting**

- Introduce everyone.
- Have someone lead the meeting with others contributing agreed parts of the meeting. Have someone take notes.
- Explain why you have come / What the issue is / What you want the MP to do. Make requests of the MP.

### **Agree on a follow-up to the meeting**

The MP will email you/write you a letter outlining what they have done following your meeting. Phone the office to ask what the MP has done following the meeting.

### **Email/Write to thank the MP**

Thanking them for the meeting and outlining what the MP agreed to do (with a timeline).

**Some of the things you can ask the MP to do as follow up:**

- I would like you to talk to other members of your political party about taking action on this important issue.
- I would like you to do a post on Facebook or a tweet about the importance of supporting the National Roadmap and Centre of Excellence.
- I would like you to make a speech in Parliament about the importance of supporting the National Roadmap and the Centre of Excellence.
- I would like you to write about this issue in your electorate newsletter.
- I would like you to do media on this issue with us.
- I would like you to distribute postcards from your electorate office.
- Thank the MP for their attention to this important issue.

**Please let us know how the meeting went**

Email: [advocacy@cid.org.au](mailto:advocacy@cid.org.au).

Facebook: [facebook.com/NSWCID](https://facebook.com/NSWCID), or @NSWCID

Twitter: [twitter.com/CIDvoice](https://twitter.com/CIDvoice) or @CIDvoice.