

## Contacting your local MP

Contacting your local Member of Parliament to discuss matters of concern is a fundamental democratic right that can often result in positive change. If you choose to contact your local MP, Recfishwest has put together the following advice to help you achieve positive outcomes.

1. Find your local MP
2. Choose the right form of contact
3. Remember the 5 Ps
4. Keep a record and follow up Contacting your local politician

### **1. Find your local MP**

If you are unsure what electorate you belong to, you can type your postcode into the [Find Your Electorate](#) page on the WA Electoral commission website. You can find out who your State MP is from the [WA Parliament member page](#) by searching member surname, electorate, postcode, suburb or region. The name of your local MP will appear and clicking on this name will bring up their contact details.

### **2. Choose the right form of contact**

Facebook is not the best way to politicians - they have advisors and staff managing their social media pages, so there is no guarantee a comment on a politician's page will actually reach. If you really want to have your message heard establish a direct connection through a face-to-face meeting, phone call, email or letter.

Emailing or ringing a politician's office and speaking with their staff can often be the quickest way to organise a meeting with your MP. Before contacting your local politician make sure you have prepared and know what you want to say.

### **3. Remember the 5 Ps (*Punctual, Polite, Personable, Prepared, and Precise*)**

Before contacting your local member of parliament make sure you know as much as you can about your issue and can articulate how this issue affects you. It is a good idea to write a summary of key points to keep you on track. If emailing your local politician this summary can form the basis of your email. Be precise in talking to your local politician and be accurate. Providing information that can't be verified or that stretches the truth won't be considered helpful or reliable.

### **4. Keep records**

Make notes of everything that both you and your local member of parliament said and committed to doing. Send a follow-up email summarising the outcome of the meeting and ask them to confirm the outcomes. Relay the outcome of your meeting with other community members who share your concerns and encourage them to also contact their local MP. Good luck and make sure you encourage others to do what you are doing.