

# Federal Election 2025

## Advocacy tool kit



There is real momentum for change to **address older person's homelessness** across the country. Our voices are powerful and the **housing crisis** gripping Australia will be a **key election issue**.

We encourage you to contact your **local federal representative** and other **local candidates** to request meetings to talk about older person's homelessness and **what needs to change**. Local members are often keen to meet their constituents, especially when there is an upcoming election. They are interested in local concerns and with the right information, encouragement and clear recommendations, **you can be a champion for older people and their housing issues**.

*'I found my MP willing to listen, very aware of the issues and keen to talk about social housing'* Kris Spark, HAAG member

*'Email, write, phone, visit, tell your story, talk to MPs, be prepared to vote on it'*

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP. At Risk 2021, HAAG online event

This toolkit provides tips on meeting with your federal representatives and candidates. HAAG would love to know of the actions you take. Please copy us in to emails you send to candidates and send us updates after meetings. Email [jane.stanley@oldertenants.org.au](mailto:jane.stanley@oldertenants.org.au) and [claudia.burgner@oldertenants.org.au](mailto:claudia.burgner@oldertenants.org.au) or phone (03) 9654 7389. Claudia and Jane are also happy to help if you'd like support, advice or encouragement to take action!

## Find your local federal representative and candidates

Find your Federal electorate and local federal representative here:

<https://electorate.aec.gov.au/>

Federal member contact details:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators and Members/Guidelines for Contacting Senators and Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members)

Information about other candidates will be available on their respective party/personal websites. Some key websites include:

Labor party: <https://www.alp.org.au/our-people/our-people/?filter=sen>

Liberal party: <https://www.liberal.org.au/our-team>

The Greens: <https://greens.org.au/candidates>

Independent MPs and candidates will have their own websites.

Once you have identified the representative, you will then need to search for their contact details, preferably an email address.

## Preparing to meet with your federal representative

### Do your research

Before you contact candidates, find out some information about them.

- Check their website, social media and media releases to see what **motivates** and **interests** them, whether they are in government, opposition or an independent
- Do they have **ministerial** responsibilities or a **particular interest**?
- Do you have any **common ground** or interests?

The more you know about the candidate, the easier and free flowing the conversation will be.

### Requesting a meeting

- Use our [template letter](#) to request a meeting (it's on our website), or write your own
- About a week after sending the request, call the electorate office **to follow up**. Federal representatives and candidates receive a huge amount of correspondence
- You will probably speak to a staff member rather than the candidate themselves. They will be able to help you arrange the meeting
- You may have to call a few times if they are busy

### Be clear, prepared and briefed before you call

When you call your local federal representative or candidate's electorate office:

- **Introduce yourself** and explain where you are calling from
- Let them know you **live in their electorate**
- **Explain the reason** for your call, and that you **would like to meet** with the representative or candidate to explain your concerns
- Have the date and other information about the meeting request (letter or email) handy so the staff members can find it in their correspondence records

Think about your availability and preference for the meeting location before you call. It could be in person at their electoral office, a community hub/local service or online.

You may wish to take along an advocate, friend or a family member. Let the staffer know about your preferences.

Give the staffer enough information to convince them that they should arrange a meeting for you. Offer to send through more information by email if that would help. Election times are very busy, and staff deal with a lot of calls on a variety of issues. They will appreciate clarity and brevity. During the call, ask for the best email address and phone number to contact the staff member if needed.

**Following the call, email or write to the office to confirm the meeting details**

## Meeting the representative/candidate

You will probably have **no more than 30 minutes** for your meeting with the representative or candidate. Introduce yourself (any others accompanying you) and use your time wisely. Get to the point. **Be specific and clear** about the issue and what you want them to do.

**Try to cover these two main areas in your meeting:**

### How does the issue affect the candidate's electorate?

If you are comfortable with doing so, share your story or consider asking another member of the community or a community advocate to the meeting to tell their story.

Explain what you know about older people's risk and experiences of homelessness in the community.

**Personal stories make the issue relatable** and harder for the representative to deny or downplay the importance of.

Older people's experiences of housing stress and homelessness are the result of systemic and structural failures but the representative or the candidate may not know how it affects their constituents.

### What are you asking them to do?

Be clear about the key policies and changes you would like to see. For example, if your main concern is about lack of affordable housing for older people, ask them to commit to investing in social and affordable housing.

HAAG is asking the federal government to take very specific measures.

You can:

- Align your 'asks' to HAAG's policy recommendations (on the next page)
- Ask that them to take housing policy commitments to the federal election with a clear focus on older people
- Ask the representative or candidate to make a public statement about the need for policies that address older people's homelessness

### Follow up promptly

Make sure you follow up after the meeting by thanking the representative or candidate and their staff via email. Share relevant information (links to reports are available on the HAAG website). Maintain your relationship with the representative/candidate by keeping in touch about important new developments or issues.

### HAAG's policy recommendations

The full list of HAAG's policy recommendations [is available to download here](#). Feel free to print this document and leave a copy with the representative or candidate. Broadly, HAAG is asking the decision makers to:

- **Increase public and community housing** to 10% of all housing stock by 2040 with a specific allocation for 55+
- Develop **housing solutions** for older people with modest assets who are not eligible for public and community housing, such as a **shared equity scheme**
- Invest in the **Independent Living Unit sector 55+ housing stock**
- Invest in **early intervention services** for older people at risk of homelessness
- Fund **specialist support services** for those who can't access aged care support due to homelessness or insecure housing
- Implement a **fairer tax system** that recognises **that everyone in Australia should have a home**
- **Create consistent and improved rental and retirement living laws** across Australia
- Make housing known as '**affordable housing**' truly **affordable** by legislating a nationally consistent definition to cap rents at **30% of income** for people on the lowest incomes
- Make **homes safe and healthy** for older people by ensuring all public, community and private rental homes are climate resilient and accessible

More detail about these asks is in [HAAG's policy paper, available on the website](#)

*'I had a positive meeting with my local MP. She was interested in planning and housing, approachable, well briefed and very supportive'* Maeve Browne-Cooper, HAAG member

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*'Tell your politicians you'll change your vote if they don't change their policies. Share your story, it is powerful'* Senator Larissa Waters. At Risk 2021, HAAG online event

Remember to let HAAG know of the actions you take! Please copy us in to emails you send to candidates and send us updates after meetings.

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### Links to helpful resources

- HAAG's Federal Election 2025 [policy recommendations summary](#) and [detailed policy paper](#)
- HAAG's [Ageing in a Housing Crisis Report](#) and [infographic](#)
- HAAG's [Not poor enough, not rich enough: Older people falling through the housing assistance eligibility gap](#)
- [Everybody's Home Campaign](#) resources