How to Reach Out to Your Local MP

1. Find and research your local Member of Parliament

The Saturday, 13 March 2027 election is for the State Government, so you need to contact your State MP. Start by going to the Parliament of NSW web site:

https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx

You can use the SEARCH tool at the top right corner of the page to look up the MP for your electorate, or you can click on the MEMBERS and ELECTORATE tab then search by MP's names or electorate.

Clicking on the name of your MP will take you to a page of information about them, including:

- Address and phone number of their Electorate Office
- Current and past positions
- Background information on the individual

Use this web page to do some research before you set up a meeting with your MP. It is important to understand their personal and professional background, and what their legislative interests and motivations are.

The more you learn, the better you can prepare for a meeting.

2. Phone your local MP's Electorate Office

Phone the MP's office and ask to be connected with the staff member who arranges his or her meetings.

Another option is to write a letter first, then follow it up with a phone call. (Please see separate template for a letter).

Be prepared when you make your call. Introduce yourself, say that you live in the MP's electorate and who you represent (your Support Group and/or you can speak as an individual living with Parkinson's).

Explain that you are seeking a meeting with the MP because you are concerned about lack of Government healthcare funding for Parkinson's disease.

Be clear and brief, because Electorate Office staff members are often very busy. They receive calls on a wide variety of local issues. Offer to send more information by email if that would help.

Once the meeting time and date is set, confirm it by email.

3. Meeting Your MP

The meeting scheduled with your MP is likely to be for 30 minutes or less. If your MP is extremely busy, you may find yourself speaking to their Electorate Officer (an assistant) instead. If so, don't be disappointed because this will still be a valuable meeting and the information will be shared with the MP at a later time.

Try to get straight to the point on this issue you want to bring to his or her attention. Be specific about the problem and then state what you want the MP to do.

In particular, emphasise how the funding issue affects the MP's electorate – local people like yourself living with Parkinson's and the challenges you are facing. You can obtain statistics on people living with Parkinson's in your area from the Parkinson's NSW Support Group Coordinator.

When it comes to saying what you would like the MP to do, it would be best to echo the points being made by Parkinson's NSW in its communications:

> **Suggest and support a Government policy of funding Parkinson's Neurological Nurses in rural and remote areas of New South Wales, with a 10-year commitment, at a cost of $1.5 million per year.**

See also the accompanying letter Parkinson's NSW has been sending to explain the funding issue.

During your conversation with the MP or the Electorate Officer, they may mention relevant healthcare policy announcements or changes which may or may not be relevant to the Parkinson's community.

It is still a good idea to make notes of the conversation so you can accurately recall what was discussed, what if anything was promised, and what needs to be further clarified.

After your meeting, please share this information with the Parkinson's NSW Support Group Coordinator to keep the organisation up to date and allow us to provide you with more support if required.