



ADVOCATE'S GUIDE TO

Meeting with politicians

Prior to the meeting

- You will need to be flexible and make it easy for them to meet with you
- Get organised. Prepare a one-page summary on your ask (or use the script outline provided) and ensure it includes your personal story, and you are comfortable with the information
- Find out about the politician. Look up their website to find information about their views and interests
- Broaden the issue and explain it not only affects your area but the whole country

On the day

- Be on time. Allow time to find parking, navigate the grounds and sign-in as required
- Be patient if they are late
- Be precise. If they say you have 10 minutes that may be all you get

At the meeting

1. Introduce yourself

Introduce yourself and the person(s) with you (if you have chosen to take a support person). Make sure to note that you live in the ELECTORATE. If asked if you represent anyone other than yourself, you can mention that you're part of a group of patients and caregivers (Melanoma Patients Australia), concerned about several important issues affecting people diagnosed with melanoma.

2. Tell them what you are here to discuss

Explain that you are there to discuss that some or all the following issues:

- there is very little supportive care available for people with melanoma
- there are very few specialist melanoma nurses compared to other similar cancers like breast and prostate
- That we need to be better at diagnosing melanoma earlier
- Access to available treatments and clinical trials is not always fast or easy and often depends on where you live
- As one of the few preventable cancers there has been very little done by governments to prevent melanoma in the first place

3. Get to the point

Outline the key messages you want them to hear:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

At the meeting (continued)

4. Get personal

Tell your MP a brief version of your personal story and the link you have to melanoma. Try to link your personal experience to the issues that you feel require government action.

5. Back it up

Back up your personal experience with actual facts around melanoma – Refer to the Spotlight on Melanoma Campaign Key Facts Infographic or Five-Point Action Plan document for specifics.

6. Clarify anything they don't understand

The MP may have questions. If you don't have the answers, offer to find out after the meeting. This gives an opportunity to follow up after the meeting.

7. Ask them to write to the Minister for Health

Ask them to write a letter to the Federal Minister for Health/ State or Territory Minister for Health requesting that they immediately provide more investment in supporting melanoma patients throughout Australia, and to convey this urgent need to the Minister for Health.

8. Reiterate your request

Press your MP until they agree to write the letter. Remember to ask to be copied in on the letter that your MP sends.

9. Conclude the meeting

Thank your MP for their time and for agreeing to write the letter. Let them know that you will be following up in the coming days and weeks.

After the meeting

- Send a thank you note and follow up with any information promised during the meeting.
- Keep in touch on relevant issues
- Let MPA know how the meeting went – you can email us at info@melanomapatients.org.au or call 1300 88 44 50.