



MEMBER RESOURCES

Getting in touch with your local member

Who is your elected representative? How can you get in touch with them? When is the best time to talk art with them?

Who is your elected representative?

First, find which shire and electorate you live in –

- Find your local council:
<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment/find-your-local-council>
- Find your state government electorate:
<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/lookup/LocalityFinder.htm>
- Find your federal government electorate:
<http://apps.aec.gov.au/esearch/>

Then, find out the name and contact details of your elected representative –

- Once you've found your local council, visit their website and find councillors' names and contact details for your region or ward
- Once you've found your state electorate, visit your local member's website to get to know them, and use this tool to generate contact details, mailing labels etc.:
<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/members>
- Once you've found your federal electorate, visit your local member's website to get to know them, and use this tool for address labels and modes of address:
http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members

When is it best to get in touch?

- Your elected representative is keen to know what's important to the communities whose interests they serve. Don't leave it until you've got something to complain about; nurture your relationship. Get in touch:
 - When you'd like to invite them to your exhibition, performance or other arts event – even if it wasn't funded by government.
 - When you've just presented an arts event, and you have photographs, stories, quotes and testimonials to share.
 - In response to a government public consultation.
 - When you have a specific concern – and take good care with how you express yourself. Use language that encourages a positive response, and offer constructive suggestions.
 - When you're contributing to state-wide advocacy led by Regional Arts Victoria.
- An important note on sending invitations and meeting requests: be sure to check the Sitting Dates calendar so that you can avoid clashing with the weeks when parliament is in session –
Victorian Parliament sitting dates:
<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/daily-calendar/yearly-sitting-dates>
Australian Parliament sitting dates:
http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Sitting_Calendar.aspx