

# Raise the Rate I Community Group Resource Pack

## **Introduction**

**In the lead up to the Federal Budget, the Raise the Rate for Good campaign is asking community organizations and groups to use their voice to urge their local MP to support an increase to income support.**

We know that for many people around the country, the last few months have been the most difficult they've ever experienced.

Even before the recent cost-of-living crisis, people on income support were struggling to cover basic expenses. But in the last twelve months, rents have risen by about 18% and food by about 9%. **People on income support are bearing the brunt of these rising costs.**

**We can't afford to leave those with the least behind.** That's why in the lead up to the budget, we need you to use your voice to advocate to your local MP. **There are two key actions we're asking groups to take:**

1. Write a letter to your local MP
2. Mobilise your network and people in your community to call their local MP

We've included all the resources you need in the pack below, including:

- Key points to include in a letter to your MP
- Templates you can send to your network
- Tools to support people in your community to take action

If you have any further questions, you can reach out to our Senior Campaigner Stacey Batterham at [stacey@acoss.org.au](mailto:stacey@acoss.org.au).

## **Write a letter to your MP**

In early May the government will hand down the federal budget. That means that **right now, our political leaders are attending meetings and reviewing briefs to decide which measures will be included.**

We need to make sure that supportive politicians go into those meetings armed with the information they need to advocate for an increase in income support, and that those who are undecided feel the weight of community pressure.

### **Can you write to your local MP?**

In your letter you may want include:

- The name of your organisation or group, what you do, and where you are based
- Why you support an urgent increase in income support
- A specific request that they vocally support and increase to income support in discussions and meeting with their colleagues

You may also want to offer to meet them in person to discuss this further prior to the federal budget.

You may find these resources helpful:

- [ACOSS policy brief outlining the case for increasing income support:](https://www.acoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Addressing-inadequacy-of-income-support-2023-final.pdf)  
<https://www.acoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Addressing-inadequacy-of-income-support-2023-final.pdf>
- [A map showing the rates of income support by electorate:](https://pip.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/interactivelegend/index.html?appid=13c486b6ed024a43be54355fafa605eb)  
<https://pip.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/interactivelegend/index.html?appid=13c486b6ed024a43be54355fafa605eb>

## **Mobilise your networks to call their local MP**

**Flooding MP offices with personal phone calls is one of the most powerful ways of grabbing a politician's attention and persuading them to increase income support.**

The Raise the Rate for Good campaign has mobilised individuals receiving inadequate income support to lobby their local member. But **we need to step up pressure in the lead up to the budget** and ensure politicians are hearing from a wide cross-section of the community.

### **Can you mobilise your staff to call their local MP?**

In order to support you and networks we've included below:

- A template email you can personalise and send to your networks asking them to make a call
- A tool that helps them identify their local MP and provides a template call script

## **Template email to send to your networks**

{NAME},

**In the coming weeks, the Federal Government will finalise its plans for the Federal Budget and raising the rate of income support has never been more urgent.**

Even before the cost-of-living crisis, income support payments weren't nearly enough to cover basic expenses. But in the last twelve months, rents have risen by about 18 per cent and food by about nine per cent and **people on income support are increasingly being forced to go without food and essential medications.**

**Can you make a phone call to your local MP urging them to Raise the Rate of income support at the May federal budget? <https://raisetherateforgood.good.do/topbudgetpriority/call/>**

The Raise the Rate for Good campaign has put together a handy tool with tips for making a phone call, that lets you enter your postcode and find your local MPs contact details. **Click here to access the tool: <https://raisetherateforgood.good.do/topbudgetpriority/call/>**

Many thanks,  
{NAME}