

Save Our Hospitals Campaign: Talking Points



As a petition leader, you're the representative and spokesperson for the Save Our Hospitals campaign in your local community.

It's important that as campaign representatives, we're all communicating the same messages. The more often people hear the same message, the more it'll stick!

That's why we've put together some talking points, which will come in handy when:

- Emailing or talking to campaign supporters
- Speaking to people in the community
- Drafting media releases, or providing a statement to the press
- Liaising with your local MP and candidates

Topline Talking Points

- Since 2013, the Federal Government has cut tens of billions in funding to local hospitals.
- Doctors and nurses groups warn that patient care is already being compromised and many hospitals are reaching breaking point.
- Healthcare funding is the number one vote-changing issue this election. We'd like to see all Federal MPs and candidates commit to restoring the full \$57 billion in funding to local hospitals.
- Investment in our health system will ensure our hospitals can continue to operate effectively, and deliver first-rate care to all Australians.

Your Hospital

You may want to do some research about your local hospital. What is the situation? Is your local health service one of the lucky ones that is not yet seeing the impacts of cuts? Or is your local health service struggling to get by with inadequate resources?

Once you've done this research, you could include a statement about your local health service as one of your topline talking points.

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Other Talking Points

On impacts

- Funding cuts could mean fewer doctors, nurses and beds, and longer emergency room and elective surgery waiting times.
- When you show up at the emergency room, the last thing you want to worry about is whether your local hospital has enough staff or beds to deliver the care you or your loved one needs.
- Year after year of brutal funding cuts is leading us down the path of an American-style health care system where people are routinely unable to access the care they need.

What we want

- Australians want a world class health care system that delivers quality healthcare to all Australians, no matter where they live or how much money they have.
- The Federal Government must invest in our health system, to lay the foundations for a strong and secure future where doctors and nurses are able to deliver first rate care for all.

On the Federal funding cuts

- In the 2014 Budget the Coalition reneged on an agreement between the Federal and State governments over hospital funding arrangements. If fulfilled, this agreement would've seen \$57 billion invested in our local hospitals over the next decade.
- In this year's Budget, Prime Minister Turnbull locked in \$54 billion of the Abbott Government's cuts to local hospitals. Making this the third consecutive year that the Coalition Government has failed to provide the funding needed to ensure our hospitals can operate effectively and efficiently.
- The Turnbull Government is trying to convince voters that he has increased funding for health, but the \$2.9 billion in budget funding is a bandaid solution to a \$57 billion gaping hole left by the Abbott Government.

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Your local community

You may want to do some research about health outcomes in your community.

For example, rural and regional health outcomes are poorer than those of other Australians, which means health cuts disproportionately affect people living in rural and regional Australia. Are there statistics like this that are relevant to your local area?

These would make for great additional talking points for your campaign.

Useful Facts

- **Health is the top issue for voters in the upcoming election according to recent polls.**

(See: Most important election issues, Essential Report, 1 March 2016)

- **Peak doctors group the *Australian Medical Association* says that many hospitals are reaching breaking point.**

(See: Public hospitals face funding crisis warns AMA president Brian Owler, The Australian, 28 January 2016)

- **Peak nurses group the *Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation* says the quality of care they are able to deliver is already being compromised.**

(See: Federal election 2016: nurses inject fund cuts into campaign, The Australian, 13 May 2016)



Need help or have any questions?

Email saveourhospitals@getup.org.au