

## *How to meet up with your MP*

The best way to contact your member of Parliament is to visit him or her. Nothing beats the personal approach – if done well.

Once you have found your MP, the ideal next step is to arrange to meet him/ her in person, armed with your list of questions. And these are really important – write them down thoughtfully and in detail, keeping in mind that you are not trying to ‘push’ your view of VE. Please, remember that ingrained beliefs are hard to change and opposing views are a threat to our values and our identity. You are promoting your case, not provoking - nothing is gained with force. More on [“Talking about VE”](#).

**Some examples of open questions** (after a bit of a friendly introduction):

- *“I’m looking for a representative in Parliament to vote for in the next election. Amongst other things, I’d like to know what you think about voluntary euthanasia. I personally believe that every competent individual, who is terminally ill, should have the right to decide how, when and where to die and that the community (the law) should respect this right and make it possible. What do you think?”*
- *“It is a well-known fact that VE law reform is strongly opposed by church groups and affiliations, and that behind the scenes they try to influence our policy makers any way they can. Some MPs’ decision-making is strongly influenced by their belief, even if this may not be in the best interest of their constituents. What is your view?”*  
*“Conscience votes are ‘hidden’ votes. Politicians can remain anonymous and override their constituents’ wishes without explanation. What are your thoughts on this?”*
- *“Considering that various polls across the nation show at least 70% majority in favour of law reform, would an independent State referendum (as on daylight saving and late night shopping) to confirm the community’s preference once and for all, be unreasonable?”*
- *“VE is a legal choice for dying people in many countries overseas, where the procedures have been proven humane and successful. Would you support a Bill that, provided all necessary criteria were met, would make VE a legal option in WA? If not, why?”*
- *“Imagine that you would be addressed by a terminally ill person, asking you directly: ‘Can you explain to me, why I have to go on living, when life is a hell for me every day?’ What would you say?”*

Try to keep the discussion reasonable. Even though VE legalisation is high on our list and we are passionate to share this with our MP, it would be prudent to sit back and watch his/her reaction to our questions. People cannot be cajoled into agreeing with our point of view. Trust must come gradually. So best to relax, ask the questions clearly, and let him/her do the talking. And make sure you know the answers to potential questions in return.

It could become clear during the meeting that your MP is not really sure about VE, but is willing to listen. This may be the start of a good relationship, and an opportunity to provide information that is unbiased and will clear up any misunderstanding. Make a note and refer to WAVES. It is a good way to make friends in Parliament.