

# HOW TO GET YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL TO SUPPORT A RAISE TO NEWSTART

## HERE ARE SOME BASIC TIPS:



### 1. Do your research!

Find out about the council you are lobbying. Find out local info, including how many Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients are living in the area (the Department of Social Services has data on this). You could also show how much the local economy would benefit from an increase to Newstart (check out the Deloitte Access Economics report). See if any neighbouring councils have passed motions to support a raise to Newstart. And if you know the Mayor or any of the councillors personally, reach out.



### 2. Share your story

Get local residents to write to the Mayor and the councillors sharing their views, particularly if they are or have been on Newstart. Try to avoid identical, carbon-copy emails that might be seen as spam – individual, personalised emails are much more powerful, even though they take more work.



### 3. Is anyone able to speak at a Council meeting?

Is there anyone in the area who is or was on Newstart, who is willing to speak at a council meeting? This can go a long way towards winning over your council. Most councils allow for members of the public to apply to address their meetings.



### 4. Is there a Councillor who can move a motion?

Find a councillor willing to present a motion at a council meeting. Motions can only come from the Mayor or the councillors, not from the public. However, you can suggest something for them to use or even draft the motion for them. This part can be tricky and may take a bit of research. You may need to contact everyone and follow-up before you find someone on council willing to get the ball rolling. Be persistent.



### 5. Show up in numbers

When it is time for the council to vote on whether to support a raise to Newstart, try to get residents to show up to sit in the gallery, with signs. Mayors and councillors take note of how many people attend meetings, so plenty of people in the gallery helps to show there is community interest in the issue.