

## How to send an email to your local NSW and Federal member

### 1. Find your local NSW member

- (a) Visit the [Find My Electorate page](#) on the NSW Electoral Commission website
- (b) Enter your street address and click 'find'. Your state electorate will be displayed
- (c) Click through to find out more about your electorate, its history and current MP
- (d) Visit the [members menu](#) on the Parliament of NSW website to view a full list of current members and find out more about your local member, including their contact details.

### 2. Find your local federal member

- (a) Visit the [Australian Electoral Commission](#) website
- (b) Enter your postcode to find your electorate
- (c) Search your electorate on the [Australian Parliament website](#) to find your federal member's contact details.

3. Copy and paste the letter below into an email, update yellow highlighted sections and send to your local NSW and/or federal member.

OR write your own email about why you believe that Welfare Rights Centre is important and necessary.

Thank you for your support, from all of us at Welfare Rights Centre.

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Mr/Ms First Name Lastname, MP

Name of Electorate

Email address

Dear Mr/Ms/Dr/Minister Member's last name

RE: Welfare Rights Centre needs urgent funding to maintain its services

I am writing to ask that your government ensure Welfare Rights Centre (WRC) is adequately funded, so it can continue to support the most vulnerable people in our community in accessing social security supports.

WRC is a unique, specialist legal centre offering free legal assistance to vulnerable people in NSW to access Centrelink payments and resolve unfair debts.

If WRC cannot secure an additional \$525,000 emergency funding for the 2024-25 financial year, it will need to significantly reduce its staffing and service levels. This will mean:

- The withdrawal of 300 advice and casework services to vulnerable NSW residents

- The disbanding of the First Nations Access Program
- Abandoning plans for a community worker hotline, and reducing training programs, which will reduce capacity across the social services sector to deal with more routine Centrelink claims.
- Reduction in WRC's capacity to respond to the establishment of the new Administrative Review Tribunal, which will entail significant change to review processes and likely increase demand.

WRC played a key role in advocating for vulnerable clients caught in the Robodebt scheme, and gave evidence advocating for reforms through the subsequent Royal Commission.

WRC clients include women leaving abusive relationships, persons with disability seeking to live independently in the community, youth completing higher education, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as people and communities rebuilding their lives after natural disasters.

WRC provides critical services to the NSW community and government sector, taking on referrals of complex legal matters, representing people in administrative review processes and building capacity across the social services sector to provide more basic support to people experiencing problems in the social security system.

The reduction in service will occur at a time that significant reforms are being introduced to federal administrative review processes and as a consequence of the Robodebt Royal Commission.

WRC is the sole community organisation in NSW that assists people in crisis situations with Centrelink, and directly alleviates cost of living pressures for thousands of people at risk of extreme poverty.

I support Welfare Rights Centre and needs it to be adequately funded because: **(enter reason, could be one of the following)**

- **I want to see poverty reduced in NSW**
- **I want a social security system which provides a genuine safety net to all who need it**
- **I refer clients to Welfare Rights Centre to help with Centrelink problems**
- **Other reasons]**

The Government's commitment to relieving cost-of-living pressures for families is welcome. For a relatively small investment of \$525,000, the Government can demonstrate to the people of NSW that it is supporting NSW families to access income support, paid parental leave, family assistance payments and child care subsidy.

Post -Robodebt, we cannot let community organisations like WRC go over a cliff.

I look forward to your positive response.

Yours faithfully,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your organisation]**