

South Australian 2022 State Election

Advocacy toolkit

The months leading up to the South Australian 2022 State Election is a perfect time to speak to your local candidates about issues affecting older South Australians. We encourage you to contact the candidates in your state electorate to talk to them about these issues, your own experiences and what needs to change to ensure we all have the opportunity to age well in our communities. Local candidates are often available to meet with people either through a public event or private meeting, especially in the months leading up to the election. They are interested in local concerns and with the right information, encouragement and recommendations, you can be a champion for all older South Australians.

This toolkit provides a practical guide to contacting the candidates in your electorate.

1. Find your local state representative and other local candidates.

You can find your local electorate through the [Electoral Commission of South Australia](#). The interactive boundaries map allows you to find your local electorate. The map can be located through this link: [ECSA Interactive Boundaries Map](#).

You can find the current Members of Parliament on the Parliament South Australia website: <https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/House-of-Assembly/Members>

Candidates for your electorate can be found through a search of the major and minor parties or through a search of your electorate.

- SA Liberal Party - [Liberal Party SA \(saliberal.org.au\)](http://saliberal.org.au)
- SA Labor Party - [State Election Candidates - South Australian Labor Party \(alp.org.au\)](http://State Election Candidates - South Australian Labor Party (alp.org.au))
- SA Greens - [Home page - SA Greens | SA Greens](#)
- SA Best - [SA-BEST \(sabest.org.au\)](http://SA-BEST (sabest.org.au))

Don't forget there may also be other candidates (including independent candidates) running in your electorate.

2. Contact your local state representative and other local candidates

There are a number of ways that you can make contact with your local state representatives and other local candidates. You can find the contact details of the candidates on their website.

Write to them

Writing an email or letter to your local candidate highlighting your experiences and the issues most important to you is another great way to raise their awareness of the opportunities and issues that face older South Australians. If you're stuck for words, feel free to use some or all of the following text:

Dear

I am a resident of <electorate name> electorate and writing about the issues affecting older South Australians.

There are over 630,000 people aged 50 years and over in South Australia and there are incredible opportunities for them to age well in their communities. But there are also some real barriers to ageing well including the prevalence of age discrimination, housing stress and homelessness, digital exclusion, employment opportunities, health and wellbeing, social exclusion and access to services.

<here we recommend you include a blurb about yourself, your experiences and/or the issues most important to you>

Overcoming the ageism that gets in the way of ageing well will need the highest level of leadership from the incoming government. The responsibility to older South Australians is a need to consider the impacts on ageing in all policies related to housing, environment, regional development, transport, digital inclusion, employment and health to give older South Australians every opportunity to age well in all aspects of their lives.

COTA SA has published its Election Platform which contains 18 recommendations centred around seven key priorities for older South Australians. They have been informed by the community through consultation, surveys, conversations, social media, letters and emails. You can find COTA SA's platform on its website.

As you're preparing for this state election, please consider the issues that are facing older South Australians.

With kind regards,

Ask for a meeting

The best way to set up a meeting is to call the electorate office or send the candidate an email or letter requesting a meeting. If you're struggling to know what to say in your email, feel free to use some or all of the text below:

Dear

I am a resident of <electorate name> electorate and writing to request a meeting with you about the issues affecting older South Australians.

There are over 630,000 people aged 50 years and over in South Australia and there are incredible opportunities for them to age well in their communities. But there are also some real barriers to ageing well including the prevalence of ageism, housing stress and homelessness, digital exclusion, employment opportunities, health and wellbeing, social exclusion and access to services.

I would like to meet with you to discuss these issues and, where applicable, your party's policy response ahead of the state election. Could you please let me know of a suitable time for this meeting to happen in person, where permitted, or via online conferencing or phone.

I look forward to hearing from you and the opportunity to discuss these important issues.

Yours sincerely,

Meet them at a public event or in a public space

Local candidates will often hold public events or will be present in public spaces to allow for people in their electorate to talk to them about the issues most important to them. These will be advertised through posters, letter box flyers, on social media (usually Facebook) and on their website.

Some tips for communicating with your local candidate/s.

- This will be a busy period for candidates and they may not respond to your correspondence straight away. If you don't hear back and would like a response, send a follow up email or make a phone call to confirm they have received it.
- Once a date has been set for a meeting, confirm the time, date and location a week prior to your meeting.
- Do some background research on the candidate to understand their position, history and their interests, in case this prompts you to write or talk about something that may be relevant to them and their policies.
- Hearing about personal stories is an impactful way to get your local candidates to listen. The more you talk about your experiences, the better!
- Only talk or write about the most important issues to you. Think about why they are important to you and offer any ideas about what could change to make things better.
- Focus on local issues. It is important that you let your candidates know about the areas they are seeking to represent.
- If you are meeting with your local candidate, prepare what you want to say ahead of time. Make some notes about your experiences or the issues most important to you and older South Australians.
- Let others in your electorate know where they can talk to their local candidates. The more people they hear from the better.
- Always be respectful. Running as a candidate is hard work and if they win, you may well want to follow up from time to time.

3. Resources

COTA SA's 2022 State Election Platform contains 18 recommendations centred around seven key priorities which have been informed by the community through consultation, surveys, conversations, social media, letters and emails.

For the full report and to visit the 2022 State Election page on the COTA SA website, [click here](#). Alternatively, please call or email us to request a paper copy.

Email: cotasa@cotasa.org.au

Phone: 08 8232 0422

4. About COTA SA

COTA SA is an older people's movement representing the rights, interests and futures of more than 630,000 South Australians aged 50 years and over. COTA SA reflects the diversity of modern ageing and connects with thousands of older people each year throughout SA. Our policy and advocacy are informed by the COTA SA Policy Council made up of older South Australians from diverse backgrounds, along with a number of advisory groups. COTA SA's social enterprise, The Plug-in conducts regular research and gathers insights into the lived experience of older South Australians in addition to its work facilitating access to older people for organisations, researchers and service providers. COTA SA is part of the COTA Federation with independent COTAs in each state and territory along with COTA Australia.