

Meeting your MP

Step One

Find out who is your MP

As a local voter, you're very important to your MP – in fact, they got their job because people voted for them or their party. They have a responsibility to represent you and your electorate. Your vote counts and they'll want to hear your story.

Minister's decide policy and are accountable to Parliament for their decisions, and they have responsibility for the actions and decisions of the agencies they represent.

We acknowledge Pharmac's independent process and Diabetes Sub-committee recommendations, and recent Request for Proposal announcements but we need action and CGM access.

To confirm who your MP is, go to vote.nz/enrolling/get-ready-to-enrol/find-your-electorate-on-a-map/



How to connect with your local MP

There are many ways you can meet and engage with your MP, depending on your circumstance. Here are some options:



In person – you could meet in their office or another appropriate location you feel comfortable in like a local coffee shop.



Virtually – if you live in a remote area or have other constraints affecting your ability to travel, you could organise a video conference or phone call.



At an event – MPs are often out and about at community events. Don't be afraid to strike up a conversation with them. You might even want to discuss a follow up meeting.



Step Two

Organising a meeting

It's important to lock in a time and date for your meeting with your MP.

Contacting the MP's office

- Ring the electorate office, they will know when your MP is free to meet.
 - Introduce yourself as a local constituent/person and say you'd like to meet with your MP to talk to them about you and your whānau living with type 1 diabetes.
 - If your MP is a listed MP, you should try the same approach, introduce yourself as a local constituent/person and say you'd like to meet with your MP to talk to them about you and your whānau living with type 1 diabetes.
 - Aim for a face-to-face meeting but let them know you're also prepared to conduct the meeting over the phone or via video conference.
 - Mention you are a T1D advocate and share who will attend the meeting. If you are a parent of a child with T1D, take your child along with you too.
- Find a time that suits and, if the person you speak to says they'll get back to you, take down their name and email, and give them your contact details.
 - Be persistent and make a diary note to call them in a couple of days to follow up.
 - ◊ Its normal to be asked to put your request in an email. Confirm the email for the person you are speaking with and follow up with an email as soon as you can. Start by thanking the person you spoke to on the phone for the conversation and mention any details they may need to consider.
 - If you don't get a meeting right away, don't give up! Remember to remain friendly, polite and respectful and you've got every chance of securing a meeting in the future. MPs will be busy leading into the election and we want to ensure funding for people with T1D is a priority.

Note: A list MP is a member of parliament (MP) elected from a party list rather than by a geographical constituency. Their place in Parliament is due to the number of votes that the party won, not to votes received by the MP personally. But they still represent their party and the whole electorate who has voted.



Step Three

Prepare for your kōrero

Your MP should be focused on helping members of their community so a meeting with you is very important to them.

Know your MP

- Do your homework.
 - ◊ Ensure you know which party your MP belongs to, whether they have any special positions in that party like Health spokesperson. You could even do a quick check whether they've made any public comments about T1D or spoken about it in Parliament.
- Look at their website, Facebook page and check out whether they've got a blog.

Know what you want

The key reason you're meeting with your MP is to raise awareness about living in a family with T1D. Remember you are the expert!

Be confident about what you do know and offer to get back to them on anything that you don't. Email us for support at sbraithwaite@jdrf.org.nz and to let us know how your meeting went.

- Be clear on what you want and don't be afraid to ask for it. This could sound something like – *"A CGM would change my life. It would help keep me out of hospital and reduce the chance of complications that I worry about along the road and in the future. Shouldn't the government fund a technology that will improve our quality of life and reduce the cost on the health care system? **Will you Promise to Remember Me when you are making decisions about health funding?**"*

For more information email Sandra at sbraithwaite@jdrf.org.nz

