

# Leadership on Lyme-like Illness

– Election 2016 –



## What to Say Tips

### Be comfortable and confident

Use this as a starting point, but use your words and make it comfortable for you.

*"I (or myself and my family) would like to see the government to take leadership on Lyme-like illnesses in Australia. We're seeking to connect and help you understand our situation so we can help you help us. The Senate inquiry into Lyme-like illness has raised the profile of this issue. We have been delighted to see politicians from major and minor parties, and independents come together in awareness that something must be done to help patients. Do you know much about Lyme-like illness in Australia?"*

*Yes! – "Great, what do you know so far?", then listen.*

*Acknowledge what they've said, then share your personal story of the impact of Lyme in brief (ie Well, this is my story... I had a full healthy life, then got sick..., and I have/haven't been able to find treatment etc, and this is how it's affected my life). "This story is replicated again and again across Australia, I'm wondering if you'd be willing to accept a short briefing (offer the Challenges & Opportunities statement) and I can put the Lyme Disease Association of Australia in touch for a full briefing."*

*No! – "No problem", then share your personal story of the impact of Lyme (ie Well, this is my story... I had a full healthy life, then got sick..., and I have/haven't been able to find treatment etc, and this is how it's affected my life). "This story is replicated again and again across Australia, I'm wondering if you'd be willing to accept a short briefing (offer the Challenges & Opportunities statement) and I can put the Lyme Disease Association of Australia in touch for a full briefing."*

### Avoid these pitfalls

- avoid trying to explain science, politics, controversies or anything outside your comfort level
- be respectful and non-challenging, while our Lyme situations can be very emotional, it's best not to argue or challenge
- if they deny and challenge, just thank them for their time – we're not going to be able to engage everyone and it's NOT something you did wrong! 😊 If you'd like our help, just let us know.



Lyme Disease Association of Australia  
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