

# Hosting a Community Calling Party

## A Guide for GetUp Action Groups

One-on-one conversations between ordinary people are the most effective way to make change. **That's where you come in - by hosting a calling party!**

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### Here's how to host your calling event:

- ! Decide on a time, venue and date. A few things to note:
  - o 2.5hrs is the suggested length of your calling party
  - o The best time to schedule your party is from 5:30-8pm weekdays or anytime on the weekend (more on this below).
- ! Register your calling event on Action Centre!
- ! Recruit other people from your action group to get involved, by using the Action Centre Directory. Use the 'log contact' tool to RSVP them to the event.

Now you can start getting ready for your calling party! The best time to make calls is Monday - Thursday between 6-8pm or anytime at the weekends.

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### Example agenda for your calling session:

**5:30 - 5:45pm:** your action group members (and their friends!) arrive. Be sure to mark them off as they arrive using a sign-in sheet (you can download one from Action Centre).

**5:45 - 6:00pm:** say hello to everyone, give everyone a chance to introduce themselves, ask everyone to share why they came along.

**6:00 - 6:15pm:** run through the conversation guide and calling codes with your callers. Demonstrate the calling software.

**6:15 - 7:45pm:** make phone calls!

**7:45 - 7:55pm:** - share stories about your experiences and update people on

**8:00pm onwards:** enjoy yourselves!

## **Resources**

You can find a conversation guide, calling codes, talking points and other general resources by following [this link](#) or typing: [action.getup.org.au/community\\_calling\\_resources](http://action.getup.org.au/community_calling_resources). You'll need access to a printer to get these resources printed.

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## **Using the calling tool**

Please print enough of all the resources for your callers before they arrive. Using the calling tool is really easy and as the host, you should try the tool before your friends arrive so you can walk them through it.

It's super easy, and all you need is a charged phone and a headset! Dial the phone number on the top of the call codes sheet to get started.

Press '1' to start making calls, or '2' if you want GetUp to bear the costs of the calls (you should do this if you're not on an unlimited phone plan). The calling tool plays music while it finds someone for you to talk to. As soon as the music stops, you can start talking! Once your conversation is over, you'll be guided by a series of prompts to enter the outcome of the call. If the person you were speaking to agreed to call their MP, they'll be sent a text messages with all the details.

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## **Ideas for making your experience as smooth as possible:**

- ! Print conversation guides and call codes well ahead of time
- ! Do your own test run of the calling tool
- ! When you've finished making calls, don't forget to debrief - what were some great conversations, what were some terrible conversations, what could have worked better?
- ! If the system crashes on you or you're experiencing technical difficulties, contact your GetUp staff organiser and let them know