



# SPEAK UP FOR CLIMATE



## SPEAK UP FOR CLIMATE - SEND A VIDEO MESSAGE TO YOUR MP

Our Church partners in the Pacific and Asia have urged Australia to take climate change more seriously. Take this opportunity to speak up! It's up to us to make sure our politicians know we expect them to take stronger action.

Speak Up for Climate is an easy way to send a high-impact message to your Member of Parliament (MP). Collectively, we'll build a loud voice for climate action that our politicians can't ignore.

### HOW IT WORKS

All you have to do is record a video (or photo) message as a group or an individual, calling for stronger climate change action. Submit it to our Speak Up For Climate online gallery where we'll publish all the Speak Up messages from around Australia. At key advocacy moments, we'll let MPs know they have messages. MPs care what their constituents think, so they'll be sure to pay attention.

### STEP BY STEP

#### 1. Reflect

Take a moment to reflect on your thoughts and feelings about climate change. For example:

- Why do you care about climate change?
- How does it affect you personally? The people you care about? Our global family? Our earth?
- What kind of world do you want for the future?
- What should Australia do to tackle climate change?
- What do you want to say to your MP?

If this is a group action, it can be helpful to have a discussion using these questions as prompts.

## Speak up in solidarity with our Pacific neighbours



"Every morning, we wake up and we see the Pacific Ocean. It surrounds our home, our island. But right now, the ocean is pretty much in our living room. Unless something changes, many of our homes are going to be lost to sea level rise.

For many, many years - well over 20 years - we've asked world leaders to take action, to hear our voice, to stop polluting the atmosphere. The truth of it is, we just can't wait any longer.

We as a people have to act now to sustain our culture, our land and our oceans.

But we need other people around the world to stand with us, in solidarity with us, to make us powerful in this fight against climate change."

*Amelia Ma'afu, Caritas Tonga*

**Will you stand up with Amelia and others on the frontlines of climate change?**

Photo: Amelia Ma'afu. Credit: Crispin Anderlini / Caritas Aotearoa NZ

## 2. Work out your unique message

Your aim is to make sure your MP knows that you care deeply about climate change and that you want her/him to support strong climate action.

We suggest you talk about why you care about climate change and what you want done about it.

There's no right or wrong way to create your message. Varied expressions from different people will create more of an impact than everyone saying the same thing. It's your unique message and the more it's authentically 'you', the more powerful it will be.

Just keep a few tips in mind:

- Identify your group (or yourself as a resident of their electorate) so that your MP knows you're a constituent.
- Don't address your MP by name. At the next elections your MP could change - but there will be no change in your message for a cleaner, fairer future.
- Be respectful and non-partisan (i.e. don't target specific parties) as your message will be more effective this way.

If you're working as a group, you may want to work out a shared message. Another option is for each person to contribute their own individual message.

You may want to consider using props to help add life and colour to your message.

## 3. Film it

Use your phone, camera etc to record your video.

Your video doesn't need to be slick or polished. The most powerful messages are spoken from the heart, no matter what shape or form.

Please record your video in **landscape** orientation.

## 4. Post it on Facebook or Youtube

After confirming that everyone in the video gives permission to make the video public (see the 'Permissions' box), upload it to Facebook or Youtube.

Include your name in the title of the video (e.g. 'St Mary's College East Hills wants climate action').

Not sure how to post a video on Youtube? Watch these instructions at [bit.ly/how-upload-youtube](http://bit.ly/how-upload-youtube)

## 5. Submit

Submit your video at [www.genearth.org.au/speak-up](http://www.genearth.org.au/speak-up)

We'll post it along with all the other Speak Up messages, creating a massive online gallery of support for climate action.

## PERMISSIONS

Before you start filming make sure everyone understands that the video will be made public on our [Generation Earth website](http://www.genearth.org.au) and may be used by Caritas Australia and Catholic Earthcare to promote the campaign and to support the broader work of our organisations.

If anyone in the video is under 18 years of age, you'll need the consent of their legal guardian.

If you don't have permission, please still participate by considering other options such as a voiceover, animation or avatar that doesn't require people's faces to be in the video.

## MORE COMFORTABLE WITH A PHOTO?

If you prefer to send a simple photo message to your MP, that's great too. Work out what signage and props will communicate your message effectively and bring your photo to life.

Send your photo to [act@caritas.org.au](mailto:act@caritas.org.au) and we'll provide you with a photo permission form to complete.

## MORE INFO AND WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

For information on:

- Climate change and poverty
- Pope Francis' message in Laudato Si'
- Other ways you can take action

visit [www.genearth.org.au](http://www.genearth.org.au)

## 6. Share

Once your video is up, share with friends and family to really multiply your impact, and encourage them to take this action as well. The more we speak up, the more influence we'll have on our politicians.

## 7. Check out other ways you can take action

See the 'More information' box.

**Most of all, THANK YOU FOR SPEAKING UP FOR CLIMATE ACTION!**