



Sign or start a petition

A petition is a formal request signed by people who live in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) asking the Legislative Assembly to take a specific action.

Regardless of your visa status or citizenship, if you live in the ACT, you are able to sign or start a petition to the Assembly. You will not get into trouble for starting or signing a petition, even if it disagrees with government policies or decisions.

Signing a petition

The Legislative Assembly website lists all electronic petitions (e-petitions) that are currently open for signature. Go to epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au/search/current to see a list of all open e-petitions.

Click on any petition title to read why it was created and what action it is requesting.

To sign an e-petition:

- Click the button in the bottom of the petition webpage.
- Confirm that you live in the ACT, have not already signed this petition, and will provide your correct personal details.
- Fill in your personal details including a title (Mr or Mrs), first and last name, your home address, email, and phone number.



Type street address into the 'Address' box until your correct address appears in the list, then click it. Your suburb, state, and postcode will fill in automatically.

- Tick the first box confirming your details are correct then click the button to sign the e-petition. You can also tick an optional box if you want to receive an email when the government responds to the petition.

Starting a new petition

You can start an e-petition if you want the Assembly to take action on a local issue (for example: public transport, roads, schools, housing, healthcare).

1. Find a sponsor

Every petition must be sponsored by a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Before starting your e-petition form, you could contact an MLA to ask if they will sponsor your petition. You can approach any of the MLAs. Their contact details are listed at parliament.act.gov.au/members/current.

2. Fill out the e-petition form

Go to epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au/lodge to start a new e-petition.

- Fill in your name and contact details. Your contact details will never be published, and your name will only appear on the website if you choose to display it.
- Add a short subject summarising the topic, explain the problem, and clearly write what you want the Assembly to do. The text must be in English and use respectful language.
- Select your sponsoring MLA from the drop-down menu, choose a closing date (between 7 days and 6 months in the future), and confirm you live in the ACT.
- Submit the form.



Your e-petition will not be published instantly. Instead, a technical officer at the Assembly will check your petition to make sure it follows Assembly rules. They can help you fix any phrasing if needed. Once approved, your e-petition will go live.

3. Collect signatures

Once published online, you can share the website link by email, social media, or on paper flyers to collect signatures until your chosen closing date.

What about paper petitions?

You can also start a paper petition for people to sign in-person. However, we strongly encourage using an e-petition instead. The online system automatically checks that rules are met, preventing your petition from being rejected due to missing details or formatting errors.

What happens after a petition closes?

Completed e-petitions are presented in the Assembly chamber. The topic and total number of signatures will be read aloud.

The ACT Government minister responsible for the topic area of your petition must write a formal response within three months. The response is published on the e-petition website.

If your petition has 500 or more signatures, it is sent to an Assembly committee for extra review. They may choose to hold an inquiry into the petition's request.

What happens to your information?

Names, home addresses, and emails of people who sign e-petitions and paper petitions are never made public. Only independent parliamentary staff (who do not belong to any political party) have access to these details to verify signatures before petitions are presented.

When a petition is presented in the Assembly, only the petition request and the total number of signatures are read out. While full details of every signatory are saved in official public records, these are never published and no one can ever request to see them.

You can choose to keep your name hidden as the creator of an e-petition when setting it up online.