



# Campaigning for Bike Sheds

Campaigning for change doesn't have to take a lot of time, but does require persistence and a strategic approach. The two key questions to ask are:

1. who are the decision makers?
2. what do they want to hear?

Go to the top but also muster coalitions of support. You don't need to include a lot of information, however, sometimes the decision makers just need to be made aware of the problem.

**Start with your local members of Parliament**, both upper and lower house. Tell them that you need less than \$20,000 to significantly increase the health outcomes of children in their area. If you already have plans and a budget, tell them exactly how much you need. Visit the following link for detailed information about bike shed layouts and plans -

<http://www.bv.com.au/general/ride2school/30270/>

Tell the **CEO, Mayor** and your local Councillor at your local council the same thing.

**Contact the relevant Ministers.** An email followed by a weekly phone call will get your message across. These links will take you straight to the website with each ministers contact details in each Australian state and territory:

- Victoria - <http://www.vic.gov.au/contactsandservices/directory>
- New South Wales - <http://www.directory.nsw.gov.au/ministers.asp>
- Queensland - <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/search.html>
- Northern Territory - <http://www.nt.gov.au/ntg/chiefmin.shtml>
- Western Australia - <http://www.premier.wa.gov.au/Ministers/Pages/Default.aspx>
- South Australia - [http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12&Itemid=4](http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12&Itemid=4)
- Tasmania - <http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/HA/Cabinet.htm>
- Australian Capital Territory - <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/section.php?v=20>

For bike shed funding, **the ultimate decision makers** are state Cabinet. Cabinet the Treasurer and Premier set the Budget. Budget decisions are informed by bids from Departments, bids from Ministers and bids from Members of Parliament.

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Many groups lobby politicians at all levels in the lead up to Budget, some prepare impressive documents and reports, others rely on meetings and personal relationships. Other groups which can influence state Budget decisions are local governments and political parties.

**Here are some points you could include in your email or phone call to the relevant minister:**

- Bike sheds have been shown to increase the number of students riding and scootering to school by as much as 50%. Riding and scootering to and from school provides some of the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity every child needs every day. It will help reduce the incidence of childhood overweight and obesity, which lead to such lifestyle diseases as diabetes 2 and cardio vascular disease in later life.
- Students walking and riding to school today will slow the growth of the health budget in future years. It will help develop life long habits of healthy active travel.
- Tell them that they'll be the local heroes of your school and all the parents of the students.

You could also find out if other schools in their electorate are also campaigning for bike sheds and join with them as well as sending your own emails.

**Bicycle Victoria and Ride2School** will also campaign for more bike shed funding and for bike sheds be an integral part of the funding for any refurbishment, rebuild, relocation or new school. Let us know what you are doing so we can be sure that your needs are represented by sending us an email at [ride2school@bv.com.au](mailto:ride2school@bv.com.au) or give us a call on 03)8636 8888.

**Good luck!**

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