Australian Federal election 2022

Suggested email to local candidate/s

Dear NAME,

I am writing to you today as a constituent of ELECTORATE NAME electorate to express my concern at the large gaps in care for young Australians with more serious and complex mental health issues.

**We encourage you to include a personal story here about why you think it’s important to invest in mental health services for these particularly vulnerable young Australians. Here’s an example you can use for inspiration:**

[I/my sister/brother/cousin/friend etc. have/has been having difficulties with my/his/her/their mental health since [year]. My/her/his/their experience of accessing mental health care [describe the challenges in accessing mental health services or the right amount/length of treatment and how it could have been improved].

Just like me/my sister/brother/cousin/friend, tens of thousands of young Australians are experiencing serious or complex mental health issues. They need more specialised and longer care than is available within the headspace centre network, but they are not yet severely ill enough to reach the crisis point currently needed to access acute care.

I strongly believe that mental ill-health should be treated similarly to other illnesses: with a priority on early intervention and access to services. I am not alone in these beliefs. Recent polling data has demonstrated that 8 in 10 Australian voters agree that mental health should be a top priority for the next Australian government. Further information on this polling data is available here: [www.orygen.org.au/About/Federal-Election-2022](http://www.orygen.org.au/About/Federal-Election-2022)

As a representative of the interests of our electorate, I hope you agree that these young futures matter. With a federal election approaching I ask you and your party to state a commitment to investing in care and support for young people with more serious and complex mental health issues.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,

YOUR NAME