

## **The life of the Votergram – born 1<sup>st</sup> March 1986 - now 26 years old.**

A Votergram is a personal concise message from a voter of a maximum 100 words. It goes to each Member of a particular House of Parliament. It produces results because it is carefully worded; MPs know it has no party-political context; responses are monitored, attended to and politicians credited with being helpful. It is a package, not just a message service.

It is a tool in the Community Campaigner's Democracy Toolbox.

The fees charged, do not cover costs, but make a contribution towards them.

### **What a Votergram entails**

Setting up mailing lists for all MPs in all parliaments of Australia at the email address most likely to produce results and regularly updating them, as with the Botany by-election this weekend

Building relationships with MPs to encourage them to respond to voters who send Votergrams

Checking the wording and liaising with the sender where necessary to ensure they have said what they want, explained why they want it and in some way asked for a reply

Sending out the Votergrams personally addressed to each MP

Helping senders respond to those MPs who reply

Monitoring and filing each reply from MPs

At election time, each response is sorted by issue and quality of response per MP.

These are then graded for responsiveness and publicised. See the Politicians Honour Roll on [www.fairgo.org](http://www.fairgo.org)

Writing and issuing media releases praising the best responding MPs.

Doing radio, press or TV interviews just before the election to ensure that MPs who help you get credit for it in their electorates.

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