

Successful lobbying,
advocacy and law reform
with conservative
governments

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- Advocacy and Human Rights Officer at Community Legal Centres NSW
- Greens Senator for NSW in the Federal Parliament from 2002-2008
- Was involved in the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee with George Brandis
- Runs training for community workers and CLC staff on interacting with MPs.

Session outline

- History of conservative law
- Choosing an issue
- Interacting with MPs
- Discuss possible campaigns

Law Reform under Conservatives

Tasmanian Government 1996-1998

- Gun Law Reform
- Decriminalise Homosexuality
- Apology to Stolen Generation
- Support for Republic

Fraser Government

- Indo-Chinese asylum seekers
- Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu, Fraser Island
- Establishing SBS
- Aboriginal land rights
- Australia's first national human rights commission

- 1959 - first attempt at state bill of rights
- 1967 – Aboriginal Referendum

Howard Government

- Gun law reform
- Age discrimination
- Not sending all asylum seekers to
Nauru

Abbott Government

- Freedom of speech?
- Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?
- Sexting?
- Same sex marriage?
- Voting rights for people with disabilities?

Choosing an issue

- Result in a real improvement in people's lives
- Give people a sense of their own power
- Alter the relations of power
- Be worthwhile
- Be winnable
- Be widely felt
- Be deeply felt
- Be easy to understand
- Have a clear target (person)
- Have a clear timetable that works for you
- Be non-divisive
- Build leadership
- Set your organisation up for the next campaign
- Help people financially
- Raise money
- Be consistent with your values and vision

Research

- Media including specialist media
- Government websites
- Political party websites
- Peak organisations or organisations with lobbyists
- Internet search
- Other politicians
- Parliamentary inquiries
- Similar campaigning organisations

Strategy Chart

Goals	Organisational Considerations	Constituents, Allies and Opponents	Targets	Tactics
The victory you want to win	What you have to put into the fight and what you want to get out of it organisationally	Who supports you	Who can give you what you want	The things that you and your constituents do to the target to make them give you what you want

Strategy Chart

Goals	Organisational Considerations	Constituents, Allies and Opponents	Targets	Tactics
<p>a) List the long-term objectives of your campaign.</p> <p>b) State the intermediate goals for this issue campaign. What constitutes victory?</p> <p><i>How will the campaign:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Win concrete improvements in people's lives? -Give people a sense of their own power? -Alter the relations of power? <p>c) What short-term or partial victories can you win as steps towards your long-term goal?</p>	<p>a) List the resources that your organisation brings to the campaign: money, number of staff, facilities, reputations, etc</p> <p>What is the budget including in-kind contributions, for this campaign?</p> <p>b) List the specific ways in which you want your organisation to be strengthened by this campaign. Eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expand participating group -Increase experience of existing group -Build membership base -Expand into new constituencies -Raise more money <p>c) List internal problems that have to be considered if the campaign is to succeed.</p>	<p>a) Who cares about this issue enough to join in or help the organisation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Whose problem is it? -What do they gain if they win? -What risks are they taking? -What power do they have over the target? -Into what groups are they organised? <p>b) Who are your opponents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What will your victory cost them? -What will they do/spend to oppose you? -How strong are they? 	<p>a) Primary targets</p> <p>A target is always a person. It is never an institution or elected body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Who has the power to give you what you want? -What power do you have over them? <p>b) Secondary targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Who has power over the people with the power to give you what you want? -What power do you have over them? 	<p>a) For each target, list the tactics that each constituent group can best use to make its power felt</p> <p>Tactics must be :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In context -Flexible and creative -Directed at a specific target -Make sense to the membership -Be backed up by a specific form of power

Advocacy Tactics

Communication	Bureaucratic	Political	Legal	Media
Networking	Participating in government consultations	Working with politicians to provide information and solutions	Case to review the legality of a government decision	Media release
Coalition building				
Opinion surveys	Using Ombudsman or Freedom of Information	Petitions and media pressure at election time	Test case on the rights of a group of people	Articles
Research				
Publications	Submissions to government inquiries	Question Time and Questions on Notice	Class action on behalf of a group of people	Photo opportunities
Public meetings				
Rallies	Building relationships with government officials		Communication to the United Nations Human Rights Committee	
Protests				
Distributing leaflets				
Emails				
Email lists				
Websites				

Categorised by Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Interacting with politicians

Who?

What?

Interacting with politicians

- Collect petitions (must be in a particular format to be tabled in parliament)
- Write submissions to inquiries
- Write to/email/fax or phone politicians
- Sending information, reports, newsletters and fliers to politicians
- Ask a politician to submit Questions on Notice for you
- Estimates
- Hold an event or exhibition at parliament
- Hold a press conference at parliament house
- Briefing journalists at parliament house
- Protests at parliament when parliament is sitting
- Meet with politicians and/or advisors
- Inviting politicians to events
- Cross bench briefings
- Attend parliament or an inquiry hearing

Possible campaigns?

Checklist for tactics

- Can you really do it? Do you have the needed people, time and resources?
- Is it focused on either the primary or secondary target?
- Does it put real power behind a specific demand?
- Does it meet your organisational goals as well as your issue goals?
- Is it outside the experience of the target?
- Is it within the experience of your own members and are they comfortable with it?
- Do you have leaders experienced enough to do it?
- Will people enjoy working on it or participating in it?
- Will it come across positively in the media?