

Getting the conversation started



Conversations are an important tool for motivating people we trust to take action.

Millions of people in Australia are worried about climate damage but haven't been offered options to express their concern in ways they feel comfortable.

They feel uncertain and anxious about climate change, but need to build their confidence to take that concern to decision makers like our elected representatives.

Every one of us has a huge opportunity to reach out to people we know and invite them to help to make this vision a reality.

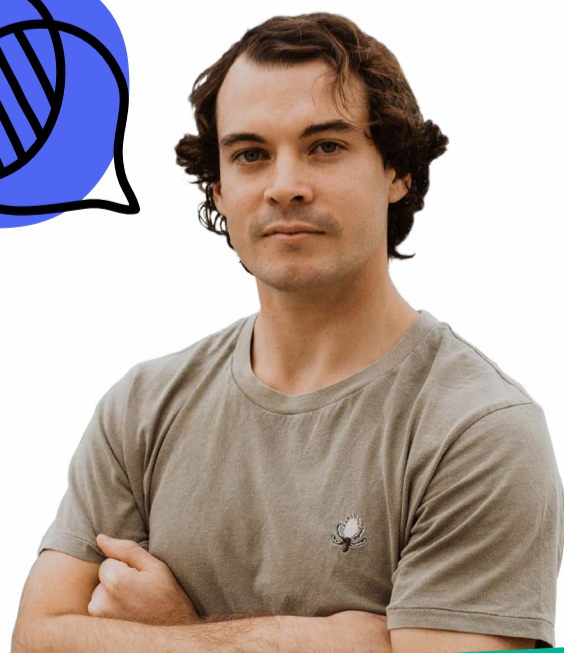
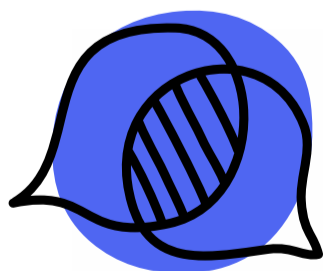
Conversations are an important tool for motivating people we trust to take action. People can process information better, explore ideas and commit to action through conversations with people they know and trust.

1 Who do I talk to?

Research shows that 2 out of 3 Australians want more action on climate change but many people don't know what they can do to make a difference. Who is someone in your life that is concerned about climate change that hasn't taken much action yet?

2 Start with an open question

- Ask them how they feel about climate change
- Ask them how they feel about recent big weather events in your area e.g. storms, bushfires, flooding or heatwaves
- Ask them about how they think climate change is impacting (or might impact) their life and the lives of people around them
- Ask them about solutions to climate change they have heard of that give them hope



3 Listen and ask questions

Listen actively. Try to understand the other person's feelings, values and ideas so you can meet the other person where they're at.

Avoid the instinct to interrupt. Try not to dominate the conversation or share lots of your opinions, statistics and advice. It's best to keep your focus on hearing and understanding the other person.

4 Draw on your experiences and feelings

A compelling story can be far more powerful than facts and figures. You don't need to be a climate scientist or expert to have a conversation about climate change.

And remember, if the other person asks you a question you don't know the answer to, it's okay to say that.

5 Centre vision and hope

Only explaining the risks associated with the climate crisis can overwhelm people and cause them to switch off. Think about what gives you hope. What is the world that you would like to see? And encourage the other person to share their vision for this beautiful country.

6 Invite them to take action

They may feel ready for action after only a few minutes chatting with you. Or it may take a few conversations over time to help them see how they can use their voices and votes.

One action you can encourage them to take is adding their story to The People's Voice. This can be found on the togetherwecanmovement.org.au site.

The People's Voice captures powerful stories from all over the country about why people want climate action. It will show just how many of us care about renewing this beautiful country with solutions for a safe climate and healthy future. Once people have created their story they can share it on many platforms, but also email their story to their local Member of Parliament.