Talk to People in Your Community

To feel confident in talking to friends and others about climate change and its impact on their lives, as well as gently challenging inaccurate views, it helps to:

- Be informed about climate change issues and keep your knowledge up-to-date.
- Seek to understand the other person's point of view - practice good listening skills.
- Be curious about why they believe in what they do, and then challenge these views where appropriate.
- Find others who do agree with your views so you have someone to support you.
- Find points of agreement with their ideas.

Tell personal stories of why you're concerned about climate change, because they express values and elicit empathy. Examples:

- *"I love swimming at the Hume Weir every summer but water levels are dropping with global warming"*
- *"I'm worried about the life my children will have when Australia's water and food supplies become scarce"*
- *"We moved here to be close to the Alpine areas, but with climate change there's less snow for skiing and more bush is getting burnt from fires"*

Explain that climate change is a humanitarian issue as well as an environmental issue and that the consequences are not just hotter temperatures but widespread desertification, famine and warfare.

Sometimes it's good to acknowledge people's fears and the threats to their lifestyles. Examples:

- *"It's true that coal miners are concerned about losing their jobs"*
- *"It's a shame that overseas holidays produce so many aviation emissions"*

This demonstrates your empathy. You can add that with a 'just transition' coal workers would get jobs in the renewable energy industry or that holidays closer to home are marvellous too.

Finish any conversations on a positive note. And remember - even your friends may not agree with you. There is no point in losing their friendship over this issue.