



# Suggestion 13

Brian Cox

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23 November 2017

The Chairman  
Redistribution Committee for the Australian Capital Territory  
c/- The Australian Electoral Commission  
Marcus Clarke Street  
Canberra City ACT

Dear Sir or Madam

### **Proposal for naming an ACT Electoral Division**

As the number of seats in the ACT is being increased from two to three, I propose that one of the seats be named NOTT.

The Guidelines which have evolved for naming electoral divisions state, inter alia:- “that in the main divisions be named after deceased Australians who have rendered outstanding service to their country”.

On this ground I propose that one of the ACT electoral divisions be named Nott after Dr Lewis Windermere Nott, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P.S., who was the First representative in the then newly established Federal Parliamentary seat of the Australian Capital Territory. It was largely due to Dr Nott’s own efforts that the ACT first gained a seat in the Federal Parliament.

In 1927, the year in which the Federal Parliament moved to Canberra Lewis Nott was the Member for the Queensland seat of Herbert (having won that seat in 1925 after defeating the Hon. Ted Theodore, a former Premier of Queensland). When Dr Nott lost his Herbert seat in 1928 he chose to stay in the Australian Capital Territory and Canberra remained his home until he died in 1951.

In addition to his long career in Federal Parliament, Lewis Nott had a distinguished record of service in World War 1. He was completing his Medical degree, commenced in Sydney University, at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh when war broke out in 1914. He enlisted immediately, rose to the rank of Captain and was made Adjutant in the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Scots. He was wounded in 1916 and twice mentioned in despatches. He returned to Edinburgh to complete his medical degree, and then joined the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Following this, he returned to the state of his birth, Queensland, where he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Mackay District Hospital. There he became involved in local government and became Mayor.

His interest in service to the community via elected office expanded from local to national government and in 1925 he contested and won the Queensland Federal seat of Herbert.

As a resident of Canberra he made notable and highly esteemed contributions to Canberra life, both professionally and in such community affairs as relief for the needy during the

Depression, supporting returned servicemen and women and involvement in the arts as a founder of the Canberra Repertory Society and the Canberra Philharmonic Society. He was Medical Superintendent of the Canberra Hospital from 1929 -1934 and also from 1941 – 1949, 13 years in total. In between his position of Superintendent, he maintained his medical practice in Kingston, A.C.T.

As a Canberra resident, Dr Nott soon developed a keen interest in local government here. He campaigned for the creation of an Advisory Council for the ACT and served as an elected member of Council from 1935 -1949. He was the elected Chair for approximately thirteen years.

In 1949 Dr Nott, as an independent candidate, was, as stated above, elected to the Federal Parliament as the first member for the Australian Capital Territory. Thus, for some 22 years he was a widely known and respected citizen of Canberra. His link with the Federal Parliament had a unique character in that he was the only member of the House of Representatives to represent both a State and a Territory. His 21 year break in Parliamentary service (from 1928 until his return in 1949) was and probably still is a record for the Australian Parliament.

Summarising, after distinguished war service, Dr Nott first came to Canberra as an early parliamentarian from Queensland. He quickly developed such an affinity with Canberra that he decided to live in the then truly “bush capital” and did much work towards developing Canberra into the city it is today.

Conclusion: So my proposal is based on two key elements :-

First is his qualification in meeting the above quoted guidelines for naming electoral divisions, and

Second, because it is entirely appropriate that his outstanding contribution to Canberra and its community in the early days eminently qualifies him for recognition in the way I propose.

Yours faithfully

Brian Cox

Former Australian Electoral Commissioner.