



Suggestion 41

Ms Bronwyn Dahlstrom

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Victorian Redistribution suggestion uploaded from the AEC website.

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Additional information: McMillan electorate must have a change of name because it is unacceptable to have an electorate named after a man responsible for at least 6 massacres of Aboriginal people. To show our respect for the Aboriginal people who have been shown little or no respect for so long, the new electorate name must be chosen by Aboriginal people from the area encompassed by the electorate.

McMillan Name Change.

I live in the electorate of McMillan and am very upset that my electorate, or any electorate for that matter, could be named after a murderer. The murderer, McMillan was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Aboriginal men, women and children in massacres in the 1840's.

I have heard the argument that Aboriginal people should just 'get over it'. But as a Jew, I know how much the holocaust still hurts virtually all Jews. But that is the 1940's. McMillan murdered during the 1840's. Does that make it any less hurtful? Jews are determined that the Holocaust will never be forgotten. Should we say in 100 years it would be acceptable for a German electorate to be named after Hitler or any of the other Nazi murderers? Indeed, why should we ever honour any murderer?

I have seen the pain that the name causes Gunnai Kurnai people. And it is not only Gunnai Kurnai people who feel the pain. Most Aboriginal people I know have told me how hurtful it is to know that people who are responsible for massacres of Aboriginal people are honoured today, especially by having place names and Electorates named after them. Why should names that reflect horrific injustices to Aboriginal people be allowed to remain? McMillan is one of those names and must be changed now.

As the electorate is on the land of the Gunnai Kurnai people and Bunurong people, it is only right that those people are the ones who chose the new name for the electorate. Through the leadership of key Aboriginal organisations a broadly representative Naming Committee has been formed. This committee made up of Bunurong and Gunnai Kurnai people has agreed on acceptable names which are being submitted to the AEC. I believe that it is imperative our electorate is called one of these names.