



Suggestion 91

Professor Ian Anderson AO, FAFPHM, FASSA, FAAHMS

1 page



16 October 2020

Australian Electoral Commission
50 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601

RE: Federal Redistribution in Victoria

I write to suggest that in the redistribution of federal electorates in Victoria the proposed new electorate be named **TUCKER**, in honour and recognition of the extraordinary Aunty Margaret Lillardia Tucker MBE.

In writing this submission I take into consideration the guidance outlined by the AEC for the requirements, and strongly support calls from within and beyond the community to have an electorate named for this preeminent Victorian and Australian.

Margaret Tucker was an activist and civil rights campaigner at the forefront of bringing recognition and light to the atrocities experienced by Aboriginal Australians. She was an organiser of the 1938 National Day of Mourning which drew attention to the lack of rights of Aboriginal people and built the momentum for the 1967 Referendum and greater equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Committed to a path of healing and peace through truth and understanding, she was the first to openly speak and write of being taken from her family, and of mistreatment as a domestic worker as a young girl. Her story led to generational truth telling and recognition in the Australian community of the Stolen Generations and its impact.

I know you will receive submissions more than able to extoll the virtues and extraordinary contributions of Margaret Tucker, and can see from a list of the recognitions and awards conferred in her life how well respected she was, and remains today. What I can say is as a young Aboriginal doctor, I had the privilege of working with Aunty Marg. She had a way of explaining things, of teaching you about the services and community being built that was intrinsically Yorta Yorta. She was a tireless campaigner and I can personally attest to the impact of her service to Indigenous Australians and to the Australian community in helping to establish the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. Almost 50 years later this service has delivered improved health outcomes and grown generations of Aboriginal health care workers and advocates, and given many health care workers the benefit of learning Indigenous health practice and traditional knowledge.

Aunty Marge's commitment to community has left a lasting impact on the landscape of services for Aboriginal Victorians, with her fostering services for children, health, women's rights, and Indigenous policy. Naming an electorate in her honour is a way for her to leave a mark on the landscape of the nation and the right to vote and be recognised, which she fought so hard for.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a public submission on the electorate naming.

Regards

Professor Ian Anderson AO
Palawa Lutrawita
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student and University Experience