



Objection 98

Polio Australia Incorporated

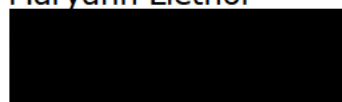
3 pages

From: Maryann Liethof
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission is in favour of the renaming of Melbourne Ports to Macnamara
Date: Monday, 23 April 2018 3:12:55 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[PA Submission.pdf](#)

Australian Electoral Commission

Please find attached, Polio Australia's submission is **in favour** of the renaming of Melbourne Ports to Macnamara.

Regards,
Maryann Liethof



National Program Manager

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Representing polio survivors throughout Australia



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Polio Australia

Representing polio survivors throughout Australia

20 April 2018

Australian Electoral Commission
fedredistribution-vic@aec.gov.au

Re: Renaming of Melbourne Ports to Macnamara

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Polio Australia, this submission is **in favour** of the renaming of Melbourne Ports to Macnamara.

Polio Australia is the national peak body representing polio survivors throughout Australia, most of whom have benefitted from the work done by Australian medical doctor and scientist, Dame Jean Macnamara, either directly or indirectly.

'Dame Jean' was best known for her contributions as a consultant and medical officer to the Poliomyelitis Committee of Victoria 1925-31. During the 1937-38 polio epidemic, she worked with Frank Macfarlane Burnet to discover that there was more than one type of poliovirus (British Journal of Experimental Pathology, 1931). Although the Salk and Sabin vaccines would not be available until after the mid-1950's, Dame Jean's contribution to this eventuality was significant. At this time, Australia is polio free, purely thanks to ongoing immunisation.

Whilst the two polio vaccines marked the end of polio epidemics, there are many thousands of children (predominantly) who contracted polio during the regular epidemics of last century. A great number of those who survived disease have clear memories of Dame Jean's ministrations, which impacted greatly on their recovery, family life, and education and career prospects. These early interventions have had a ripple effect throughout the community, with a significant number of Dame Jean's patients going on to live long and successful lives, producing legal professionals, accountants, teachers, social workers, and disability advocates, to name a few.

Polio Australia's demographic comprises thousands of polio survivors who are now living with the Late Effects of Polio, a chronic and often debilitating condition which is little understood by today's health practitioners. We can only imagine what Dame Jean would have done in relation to researching, educating, and treating this 'second wave' of polio-related morbidity.

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However, acknowledging and celebrating the Macnamara namesake through the renaming of this federal electorate seat, goes a long way towards both recognising her historically significant achievements, and raising the awareness of a disease that continues to affect people today. This is not a history we would every wish to repeat.

Maryann Liethof



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