



Objection 62

Maureen Grant

2 pages

From: Maureen Grant
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: Proposed renaming of Melbourne Ports
Date: Tuesday, 17 April 2018 9:18:25 PM

My name is Maureen Grant (formerly Maureen Commons) and I write to offer my wholehearted support to the proposal to rename the Melbourne Ports Electorate to Macnamara. I currently reside in the electorate and on a personal level hope that this electorate will be named in honour of Dame Jean Macnamara.

I was born in country Victoria in 1946 during the polio epidemic and unfortunately whilst in the local hospital, contracted polio, as at that time there were two girls being treated in iron lungs due to the polio virus.

When I was three, my parents were fortunate to get a referral for me to see Dame Jean Macnamara and my association with her lasted for a further 15 years, with a 2 year break due to her ill health.

Polio affected my left side and at the time of commencing treatment I was unable to put my left foot to the ground to support my weight. In those early years my physical abilities increased due to exercises 3 times a day. Living in the country, we did not have access to physiotherapists, during our 3 monthly visits to Dame Jean, my mother was shown in minute detail how to work with me on the exercise programme until the next visit, where most of the exercises were changed by Dame Jean and hence more exercises for my mother to learn and for me to master in the coming months. Every year brought new callipers, splints and an array of home made exercise aids that Dame Jean would carefully sketch for us to take home and have fashioned by one of the local handymen at their work bench. Whilst still living in the country, we were fortunate to be visited on many of Dame Jean's country visits where she travelled to see children who for one reason or another could not get to Melbourne. She would come to our house, check all my exercise equipment. My mattress was inspected, chairs were inspected for height and posture, all the time I was drinking in the importance of what was trying to be achieved. I can only suppose that all her encouragement must have been a great support to my parents.

Until about the age of 12, my visits to Dame Jean revolved around the weakness of my left leg and arm, posture, eyesight, hearing and breathing and even included teeth. I found her interest in checking on my dental visits somewhat amusing, I could never understand why she would bother to even check on that area of my health. She "managed" all these specialist doctors, even checking with a personal phone call if their written reports were not detailed in the areas she considered important or had asked to be assessed. Her interest and enthusiasm in my progress seemed limitless.

Even during the two plus years that she was retired due to ill health, it was not unusual to receive a phone call telling me she had been discussing with colleagues the changes in treatment for some of my other health issues and these calls also came with appointment times and instructions as to how and where to visit the new doctor. Thankfully my parents always seemed able to find the time to make the most of these opportunities.

During the next year of treatment, there was little change to the pattern above, except now I was to take control of my own progress. My parents were banished to the waiting room while I

went in alone to see the many specialist doctors and any tests that were forthcoming from those visits. They were however allowed to join me in visits to Dame Jean's rooms, but only as bystanders. My education had begun with both Dame Jean and myself down on the floor doing and teaching me new exercises. She also reinforced the need to keep working my lazy muscles and to look for the signs of strain on my joints. My last two visits to her, about two years before she died, were spent reinforcing what she had taught me and with that knowledge why I should always strongly question any medical treatment that may be offered in the future.

I realise that my story has been repeated many times over for so many people. I am most grateful to Dame Jean for her tireless dedication and support and teaching me at a very early age to have ownership in all I do. Now after so many years she remains a major influence in my life along with my parents, maybe even a greater influence than my parents. No doubt there is an expectation of parents by their children, but to experience such dedication from your doctor is remarkable and well worth the proposed honour.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts and,
Regards,

Maureen Grant

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