



# Objection 184

Electoral Reform Society of  
South Australia

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## **To the Redistribution Committee for South Australia**

### **Spence**

The Electoral Reform Society of South Australia wishes to object to the naming of one of South Australia's electorates as 'Spence.'

The Committee has indicated it is proposed to:

*"change the name of the Division of Wakefield to 'Spence' in honour of Catherine Helen Spence (1825–1910) for her work as an advocate for female suffrage and electoral reform."*

(Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018G00280>)

Miss Spence was one of the first advocates for proportional representation in Australia (and indeed the world) and this became her main focus. She supported the quota-preferential method of proportional representation for all elections (called Hare-Spence in her day).

As proportional representation requires multi-member electorates, to name a single-member electorate after Miss Spence is an insult to both her memory and her life-long cause.

For more details on Catherine Helen Spence's commitment to proportional representation, see <https://effectivevoting.wordpress.com/catherine-helen-spence>.

There was a South Australian State single-member electorate called 'Spence' and the Electoral Reform Society campaigned for many years before the name of that electorate was changed.

When the day comes that there are multi-member electorates for the House of Representatives, this Society would welcome the first multi-member electorate to being named 'Spence.'

### **Hindmarsh**

While not wishing to comment on the new proposed boundaries (as the Society only supports multimember electorates), we have received comments that the now proposed electorate of 'Hindmarsh' is also misnamed and it should be 'Port Adelaide.' Whereas the current Hindmarsh electorate does still have some parts of suburban Hindmarsh within its boundaries, the proposed Hindmarsh does not

David Penberthy writing in *The Advertiser*, said the following: *As an added insult, the crude manner in which the AEC has gone about this redraw shows little regard for our state's history. It is lamentable that of all the seats to go, it was Port Adelaide. Imagine if WA lost Fremantle or Victoria lost Melbourne Ports? Port Adelaide holds a special place in the history of SA and deserves the recognition of its own federal electorate.* ("Why losing another SA seat hurts us all", *The Advertiser* April 20, 2018).

If there continues to be an electorate of Adelaide, the same logic applies to keeping the name Port Adelaide. And for those AFL supporters of the two South Australian teams, Adelaide and Port Adelaide, having the both names for Federal electorates is also seen as appropriate!