



Suggestion 36

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2 pages

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TO: AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

RE: FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION IN VICTORIA

I am writing to make a public submission about the **naming** of the proposed new federal electorate in Victoria following the 2021 redistribution.

My suggestion for the name of the new electorate is **TUCKER**.

This name would honour the outstanding lifetime service to her country of the late **Margaret Tucker MBE**.

Following are my reasons for this suggestion:

1. Margaret Tucker (1904 – 1996) has been widely recognised as a leading figure of the 20th century in Australia.
2. Tucker was a leading Aboriginal activist and civil rights campaigner who worked alongside Pastor Doug Nicholls and William Cooper. (For example, Tucker was an organiser of the 1938 National Day of Mourning.) Nicholls and Cooper have both been honoured with Victorian electorate names but Tucker has not received equal recognition for work of equal value, accomplishment and community esteem.
3. Tucker was internationally renowned for her leading role as a civil rights campaigner, invited to the US on a public speaking tour (1957).
4. Tucker was the first woman to join the Commonwealth Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (1968). She also served on the Aboriginal Land Council of Victoria and the Victorian Government's Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee.
5. Tucker's leadership and support was critical in establishing the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (1973).

6. Tucker's service to the state of Victoria was recognised when she was inducted on the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll in 2011.
7. Tucker's service to the Commonwealth was recognised when she was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1968.
8. Tucker fulfils all the criteria for naming Federal Electoral Divisions.
9. Only 5 out of 38 Federal Electoral Divisions in Victoria (13%) are named after women alone.
10. Only 17 out of 150 Federal Electoral Divisions in Australia (11%) are named after women alone.
11. Only 6 Federal Electoral Divisions in Australia are named after a First Nations person.
12. The Australian values of fairness, equality and justice demand that the AEC work towards gender parity in the naming of Federal Electoral Divisions. The naming of each and every new division is a step along the way (or a step backwards) in this pursuit of equality.

Thank you for considering my submission.

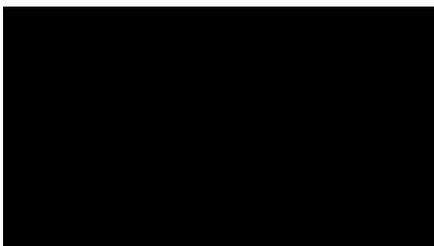
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require a fuller explanation of any of the above points, or more evidence-based information or documentation of the facts as set out before you.

My views can also be read here:

<https://theconversation.com/we-have-enough-electorates-named-after-dead-white-men-its-time-we-chose-a-woman-instead-146923>

Note: the above article was republished in five other media outlets, suggesting there is broad community support for gender parity in the naming process.

Regards,



Professor Clare Wright OAM