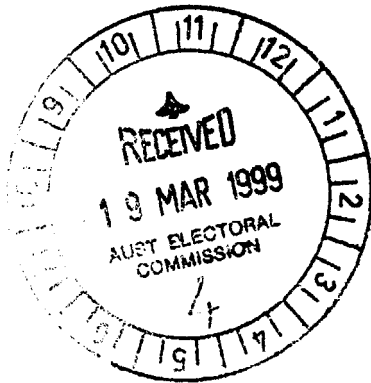


## **SUGGESTION No 4**

**The Messinian Association of SA Inc**

# THE MESSINIAN ASSOCIATION of SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.



The President, Mr Con Mihalopoulos  
Messinian Association of SA Inc.  
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Australian Electoral Commissioner  
Boundaries Review

18 March, 1999

The Messinian Association of South Australia welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Australian Electoral Commission's review of the Federal Divisions within the State of South Australia.

- History

*Greece*

Originally from Messinia – the southern region of Peloponnese – the southern most geographic section of mainland Greece.

Majority of community migrated from persecution and persistent war and conflict in the mid-1900s –

WWII – 3 years German Occupation – liberated by British;

1945-1949 Civil War between Communists and Royalists;

1967 Military junta took political control;

1973 Pro-democracy movement lead primarily by students was crushed by fascist junta and a large number of students were brutally killed;

1974 Junta supported right wing Greek coup in Cypress – the fall-out enabling Turkey's invasion of the island and the junta's eventual collapse.

*Australia*

The Messinians left Greece, the civil war, and political oppression for peaceful Australia. The political oppression was evident throughout this period – the civil war aroused much fear and hate; people were not free to speak their minds or even discuss ideas if it meant being 'critical' of the rulers of the day; human rights were compromised, and people needed to escape.

Greeks migrating to Australia were refugees, however their primary interaction with Australia was not an Embassy, but arriving at Port Adelaide. There were no humanitarian assistance packages made available from the Australian government. Greek migrants were required to work, or starve.

In this environment the Messinian Association was formed and grew, galvanizing support from each other in and around the inner western suburbs for those of them who were most in need.

Their children went to Australian schools to learn English so that they could assist their parents in their daily tasks – interpreting for their parents at the shop, in the surgery, with the authorities. Poor and socially isolated (by language), the Messinians maintained enormous social cohesion and support for each other while the decades passed and the children grew up to have families of their own. The elderly still need assistance interacting with government agencies, comprehending the law, and maintaining their extended families. And the Messinian Association continues to support and care for these who have endured so much conflict, so much change, and continuing social and political isolation.

- Messinian Association – A Community of Interest

The generations of Australian-Messinians continue to maintain links within their community, reinforced through myriad social, cultural, economic and political activities and partnerships, to an extent generally uncommon in Anglo-Australian culture.

Australian-Messinians are supported in the above through social infrastructure, including the Greek media of print and radio, and a broad, friendly appreciation for Greek culture in the wider community, all which accommodate, facilitate and continually develop the community and its evolving presence and purposes within South Australia.

The Messinian Association suggests that it, symbolic of other Greek groups and associations in the western suburbs, is a well defined community of multiple interests and should, to the fullest extent practicable, have the whole area in which the community resides included within the one Federal Division.

- Residences of Messinian Community

The area in which the community resides in greatest concentration lies within the boundaries of Anzac Highway, Marion, Findon and Port Roads and the western Parklands. Approximately 3000 in Messinian community, while total Greek population in the area is approximately 8000 – 10000.

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- Conclusion

- The Greek community of the western suburbs, specifically in this case, migrants from Messinia and their descendants, is one of the strongest within South Australia in its sense of and dependence on 'community'.

This community is held together by many interests - language, religion, education, culture, sport, economy, politics and geography.

The above interests have proved their durability within the community, which has consequently thrived for almost half a century.

We ask that this community be, as far as practicable, encompassed within the boundaries of one Federal Division.

Con Mihalopoulos

President  
Messinian Association of South Australia



President  
Pan Messinian Federation of Australia and New Zealand

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