



The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



Public Suggestion Number 14

Michael Lee

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RED HILL QLD 4059

18 June 2003

SUGGESTION

14

The Chairman
Redistribution Committee of Queensland
GPO Box 2590
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Chairman

I am writing to submit that the name for the new Federal seat to be created in Queensland to be named, Bonner, after the late former Senator, Neville Bonner.

Neville Bonner became the first Aborigine to enter the Federal Parliament in 1971 and remained in the Senate until 1983.

He represented not only the State of Queensland but also Australia with great honour and vigour. He was outspoken on issues and tirelessly fought to bridge the divide between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. As he eloquently stated:

"We've got to come together, that's what we want for Australia. A one people. We're all Australians, regardless of your ethnic background, regardless of your political belief, regardless of your religious beliefs we are all Australians."

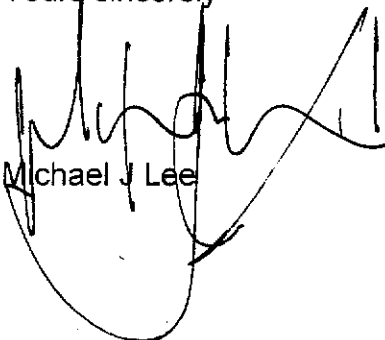
In 1979 he was named the Australian of the Year and in 1984 awarded the title of Officer of the Order of Australia.

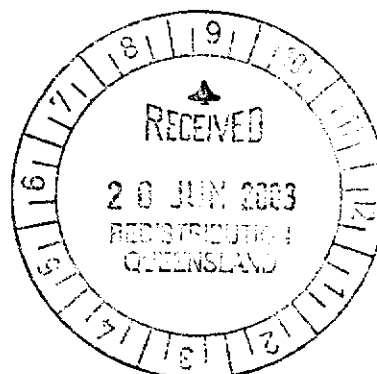
After leaving politics he continued to work for the community mostly in voluntary or honorary roles. These included World Vision, Amnesty International, the Ipswich Womens' Shelter and lecturing at universities.

He passed away in February 1999 having made a profound impact on Australian politics and society. It was a measure of the man that he was respected by all side of politics.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely


Michael J Lee



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