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Submission OB124

Rachel

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, Rachel - Redistribution SA - Submission on the proposed South Australian redistribution

Personal details

First name: Rachel
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Submission on the proposed South Australian redistribution details

Category: Names

Details:

I write to propose that the Electoral Division of Grey be renamed in honour of Dr Lowitja ODonoghue AC CBE DSG, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to South Australia and to the nation.

Dr ODonoghue was one of Australias most respected Aboriginal leaders and a trailblazer in public life. A Yankunytjatjara woman born in South Australia, she trained as a nurse and became the first Aboriginal nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. She went on to hold senior leadership roles in Aboriginal affairs, including as the inaugural Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC).

Her legacy is one of national significance. Dr ODonoghue was a tireless advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, contributing to policy reform, reconciliation, and improved health and social outcomes. Her leadership was marked by integrity, strength and a deep commitment to community.

Importantly, her life and work are deeply connected to South Australia and reflect the diverse communities represented within the Division of Grey, including regional, remote and Aboriginal populations. Renaming the Division in her honour would provide meaningful recognition of a South Australian whose contributions have had a lasting and transformative impact.

The current name, Grey, reflects a colonial-era

figure whose legacy is increasingly contested.
Renaming the Division after Dr ODonoghue would better reflect contemporary Australian values and acknowledge the enduring contributions of Aboriginal leaders to our nation.

This proposal aligns with the Australian Electoral Commissions naming principles, recognising a deceased individual who has made an outstanding contribution to public life. Dr ODonoghues legacy is both nationally significant and deeply rooted in South Australia.

Renaming the Division of Grey in her honour would:
Recognise one of Australias most
influential Aboriginal leaders
Honour a South Australian of national
and international standing
Reflect contemporary values of
inclusion, recognition and respect
Provide a name that resonates with
the communities within the Division

Thank you for considering this submission.
