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Submission OB377

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eldridge, melissa - Redistribution SA - Submission on the proposed South Australian redistribution

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Submission on the proposed South Australian redistribution details

Category: Names

Details: I am thrilled at the proposed renaming of the Federal electorate of Grey to O'Donoghue in honour of the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue. This proposal honours her life long connection to this Country - this electorate is her place of birth and where she lived and worked for most of her life. Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue contributed significantly to the health sector and Aboriginal Affairs in South Australia. She was the first Aboriginal person to address the United Nations General Assembly (1992) and the first Aboriginal woman to be appointed to the Order of Australia (1976), she was a nurse (the first Aboriginal nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital), she was the Inaugural Chairperson of ATSIC (1990), a staunch advocate and a massive contributor to South Australia. Sir George Grey was born and died overseas, he was in South Australia for only 4 years, with limited connection to our state. As Governor, his contributions had devastating and ongoing effects on First Nations people, he implemented a policy of compulsory assimilation, aiming to "civilize" Aboriginal people by replacing their customs with British law, and Christianity. He amended laws to make testimony given by Aboriginal Australians inadmissible in court. This created a situation that ensured that the murder and massacre of aboriginal Australians by European colonisers could not be tried solely on the evidence of aboriginal witnesses - this act remained in force for over 80 years. He was one of the architects of Aboriginal dispossession. With only two state and two federal electorates named for women and zero federal electorates named for an Indigenous person or word, honouring Dr O. Donoghue's

extraordinary leadership and connection to Country is
a welcome move, long overdue.
