



Suggestion 51

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TO: AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

RE: FEDERAL REDISTRIBUTION IN VICTORIA

I would like to support 'Margaret Lillardia Tucker' as the name for the proposed new federal electorate in Victoria following the 2021 redistribution.

Margret Tucker was a distinguished woman of Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri descent, whose achievements include:

- She was a leading Aboriginal activist of her day from the 1930s, being involved with William Cooper's Australian Aborigines League and the Day of Mourning seminal protest in 1938.
- She was appointed to the newly formed Aborigines Welfare Board in 1964 and served on other Aboriginal bodies including the Aboriginal Land Council of Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Indigenous women's organisations, and was patron of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care agency.
- Her Autobiography *If Everyone Cared* (1977) alerted readers to the problem of stolen children and those placed in homes to become low paid workers. The film 'Lousy Little Sixpence', which in part featured her story has been influential in educational circles for decades.
- She was awarded an MBE in 1968 and is a member of the both the Victorian Honour Role of Women and also the Victorian Aboriginal Roll of Honour.

Such recognition for Margaret Lillardia Tucker would help redress the gender balance in the naming of federal electorates. It would also honour the long career of public engagement of one of Victorian's most significant and revered Indigenous women.

Your sincerely



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Author of the prize-winning *Aboriginal Victorians. A History since 1800* (2005).

