



# Suggestion 44

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## **Naming of the new electorate in Victoria**

I think that the new electorate to be created in Victoria be named **Tucker** to honour the indigenous leader, Margaret Tucker (1904-1996). By naming the new electorate after her, a small step will be taken to help redress the low representation of both women and indigenous people in the names of Federal electorates.

Margaret Tucker, known as Auntie Marge, was a Yorta Yorta woman and a member of the Stolen Generation. In the early 1930's she came to Melbourne and campaigned for indigenous rights with William Cooper, Douglas Nicholls with Bill Onus. Cooper and Nicholls both have electorates named after them so it seems appropriate that Margaret Tucker should also have one named after her. In 1932, she helped found the Australian Aborigines League and served as its treasurer. In 1938, along with William Cooper and Douglas Nicholls, she represented Victoria at the National Day of Mourning in Sydney that marked 150 years of white occupation. In 1964 she was appointed to the Aborigines Welfare Board of Victoria and received a MBE in 1968 for services to the Victorian indigenous community. Her leadership was instrumental in establishing the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in 1973. In 2001 she was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

Margaret Tucker was an activist who worked all her life for justice for indigenous Australians and for genuine reconciliation. She was highly respected by both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians and by people from all sides of the political spectrum. She is an eminent and important Australian and should be honoured with an electorate named after her.

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