



Suggestion 22

Edmund Rice Centre WA

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Dear Commissioners,

We are grateful for this opportunity to make a submission on Western Australia's Federal redistribution.

Since 1998 ERCWA been providing services community with people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, as well as with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people and children and youth from low SES backgrounds. We provide much programs in English (75 participants per day) computer studies, life skills, driver education, and settlement assistance, 2 women's groups, very popular youth sports, art and leadership programs for young people from low SES backgrounds and cultural and arts programs for young Aboriginal people. Every year the Centre interacts with around 3,000 people the majority living in Mirrabooka, Koondoola, Girrawheen and Balga.

We wish to make a submission in relation to the suburbs of Girrawheen, Koondoola, Balga and Mirrabooka. Currently the suburbs of Girrawheen and Koondoola are in the Division of Cowan, while the suburbs of Balga and Mirrabooka are in the Division of Stirling. These suburbs form a community of interest and we believe the redistribution process should bring them into the same Division.

Because ERCWA operates on the ground in these suburbs, we know that effective political representation is vital for the area. Being unified into the same Division would strengthen the representation afforded to these suburbs and their shared interests in the Federal Parliament.

We believe the best option for the Commission would be to transfer the suburbs of Balga and Mirrabooka into the Division of Cowan.

Yours sincerely,

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We acknowledge the traditional owners of Wadjak country and their continuing connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to elders both past and present and to their stories that have sustained them over many thousands of years.