



Comment on suggestion 36

Glenys Sharma

2 pages

Friday, 30 October 2020

Redistribution Committee,
Tom Rogers, Steve Kennedy, Craig Sandy, Andrew Greaves
Level 8, Casselden Building
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Committee members,

I support all the submissions urging you to name the new electorate after a prominent woman. The low representation of women in the names of electorates is reprehensible.

Is the Australian Electoral Commission seriously suggesting that there are far fewer Australian women of merit who've made a significant and lasting contribution to Australia?

For a start no electorate is named after Dame Joan Sutherland!

This letter is addressed to each of you personally.

Do you have daughters and granddaughters who you'd like to aspire to be anything they want to be? Well that's not going to happen by perpetuating the low representation of electorates named after women. In truth you are deceiving your daughters and granddaughters because you are placing limitations on them before they can even imagine their futures, by the unconscious bias that permeates Australian culture.

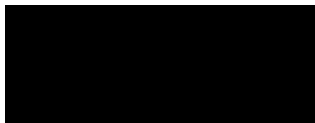
And by not actively and deliberately taking it upon yourselves to name **every** new electorate after a woman until 51% of electorates are named after women your actions are part of the problem and not the solution for a fair representation and acknowledgement of the towering contribution of many Australian women to this country and many of them to the world.

Your daughters and granddaughters deserve much better than this. *'They cannot be what they cannot see'*, Marian Wright Edelman, civil rights activist

Your daughters and granddaughters cannot hope to strive to live their lives in any endeavour or field if they cannot see women role models to identify with. What they see around them is a powerful subliminal message. If all they see is a limited range of opportunities then their sights will be limited. And you will have contributed to limiting their access to a diverse range of opportunities and financial and social rewards that presently are only accessible and offered to men.

You can play your part to change this. Please start the change now.

Yours sincerely



Glenys Sharma, 

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)
Subject: [VIC Redistribution Enquiry] Sharma, Glenys *WWW* [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 30 October 2020 3:04:29 PM

VIC Enquiry
Name: Sharma, Glenys
Organisation:
Phone: [REDACTED]
Question: Friday 30 October 2020, 3.04pm
Redistribution Committee Victoria
Level 8, Casselden
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Dear Tom Rogers, Steve Kennedy, Craig Sandy, Andrew Greaves

I support all the submissions urging you to name the new Victorian electorate after a prominent woman. The low representation of women in the names of electorates is reprehensible. Surely the Australian Electoral Commission and this Committee is not seriously thinking that there a far fewer Australian women than men of merit who have made a significant, outstanding and lasting contribution to Australia?
For a start no electorate is named after Dame Joan Sutherland!
This letter is addressed to each of you personally.

Do you have daughters and granddaughters who you would like to aspire to be anything they want to be? Well that is not going to happen by perpetuating the low representation of electorates named after women. In truth, you are deceiving your daughters and granddaughters because you are placing limitations on them before they can even imagine their futures, by the unconscious bias that permeates Australian culture.
And by not actively and deliberately taking it upon yourselves to name every new electorate after women until 51 per cent of electorates are named after prominent women, your actions are a part of the problem not the solution to a fair representation and acknowledgement of the towering contribution of many Australian women to this country and many of them to the world.
Your daughters and granddaughters deserve better than this. 'They cannot be what they cannot see' Marian Wright Edelman, civil rights advocate.
Your daughters and granddaughters cannot hope to strive to live their lives in any endeavour of field if they cannot see women role models to identify with. What they see around them is a powerful, subliminal message. If all they see is a limited range of opportunities then their sights will be limited. And you will have contributed to limiting their access to a diverse range of opportunities and financial and social rewards that presently are only accessible and offered to men.
You can play your part to change this and reset the forums where Australians are represented to reflect the number of women in the Australian population. Please start now. Robert James Lee Hawke can wait.
Significant women have waited much longer to be recognised.
When my comments are published I would grateful if my contact details were omitted.

Yours sincerely
Glenys Sharma
[REDACTED]