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A Community Legal Centre

17 November 2017

Redistribution Committee for Victoria
Australian Electoral Commission
GPO Box 768
Melbourne VIC 3001

By email: FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au

Dear Committee members,

Submission to support the recommendation of Darebin City Council on behalf of the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council, Aboriginal Corporation and Yarra City Council requesting the renaming of the Federal Electorate of Batman to the Federal Electorate of Simon Wonga

We welcome the Committee's request for written submissions in relation to the proposed name change of the Federal electorate of Batman to Simon Wonga.

Fitzroy Legal Service is one of the oldest not for profit Community Legal Centres (CLC) in Australia providing legal services to approximately 3,500 clients per annum, in addition to our online legal resources being accessed by over 15,000 users each week (including the Law Handbook). For over 44 years we have championed legal literacy, access to justice, law reform/ policy change and public interest litigation. We have a strong reputation and long history of collaborative partnerships within the legal community, across the community and health service sectors, and directly with the communities we serve, including First Nations people.

We wholeheartedly support the joint submission of Darebin City Council, Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council, Aboriginal Corporation, and Yarra City Council. We urge the Australian Electoral Commission to support this name change for the benefit of all community and future generations.

We note that the name Simon Wonga has been put forth and endorsed by the Wurundjeri Council's Board of Directors (formerly Committee of Management) as the proposed new name for the Division of Batman. The name change to Simon Wonga has received universal support from the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Yarra Aboriginal Advisory Group, the 18 Aboriginal-controlled organisations based in Darebin, and the Member for Batman, the Hon. David Feeney.

The role Simon Wonga played as *ngurungaeta*, demonstrating leadership, vision and courage to improve conditions for the Wurundjeri people, is deserving of recognition.

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Renaming the electorate to Simon Wonga conforms to the spirit of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, particularly in regard to its commitment to respect and promote the rights of Aboriginal people and in regard of the right of the Aboriginal people to enjoy their identity and culture.

This change will provide greater recognition and respect for Traditional Owners and honour Simon Wonga's unique place in Australian history.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding our submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claudia Fatone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Claudia Fatone
Executive Officer