

ACT Electoral Commission  
PO Box 272  
Civic Square ACT 2608

Friday, 5 August 2011

Dear ACT Electoral Commission

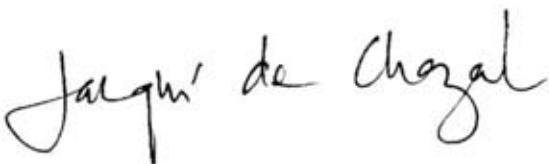
I am writing to object to the proposed changes to the ACT electoral boundaries that would see the inner North divided: Turner, O'Connor and Lyneham separated from Braddon, Reid, Ainslie, Dickson, Hackett, Watson and Downer.

My objection lies in how this proposed redistribution divides a relatively long established inner North community. I use my own pattern of Canberra habitation to substantiate this claim.

I grew up in Sutton, NSW and went to High School at Lyneham, then College at Dickson, this schooling undertaken in the early 1980s. My catchment of friends was not surprisingly mostly from the inner North. This association and an emerging identity with this area deepened when I left school, where I lived in a range of houses in Turner, Reid, Ainslie, and O'Connor. I purchased the place where I now live two years ago and plan to reside here long term. These suburbs both *east and west* of Northbourne Avenue are Canberra to me. Northbourne Avenue was and is not an obvious and self-evident dividing line. My present domestic pattern of life in Ainslie cannot be distinguished from when I lived in O'Connor, Turner, or Reid. Apart from the obvious, ie I now leave from home east of Northbourne, I still shop at the same shops (Ainslie, Dickson, O'Connor, Lyneham), I go to the same bars and cafes (Civic, Lyneham), I visit the same friends (Ainslie, O'Connor, Lyneham).

Dividing this community of which I am part takes something important away from me. The electorate in which one resides means something. Identity, connection, shared services, common representatives, shared vision. This is Community. By dividing this area across two electorates you would be dividing a palpably living community. Division of the inner North seems antagonistic to the spirit and intent of good decision-making with regard to the placement of an electoral boundary.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline de Chazal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqueline de Chazal