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The Australian Muslim Social Services Agency (AMSSA)

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Objection to Comments - Victorian Electoral Boundaries Redistribution

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as the Secretary of the Australian Muslim Social Services Agency (AMSSA) of North Melbourne. I am writing to object to the proposal by Victorian Labor to move North Melbourne from the Division of Melbourne into the Division of Maribyrnong.

The Australian Muslim Social Services Agency (AMSSA) is a not-for profit organization established in 08/11/2004 that provides services that are tailored for the experiences and needs of the growing Muslim community in Australia. The AMSSA Centre is a space where the Muslim community can offer their daily prayers, and in recent years we have also taken the responsibility of providing broader support for the community.

Many who attend prayer at AMSSA live in public housing towers in the inner city of Melbourne. The needs of the Islamic public housing community are well known to AMSSA, and we provide regular support to these residents. This was demonstrated during the hard lockdowns of 2020, where we led food relief efforts for residents locked in the North Melbourne towers.

The network of Islamic public housing residents in Melbourne is well connected across the towers in Fitzroy, Collingwood, Richmond, Carlton and North Melbourne. The community comes together regularly - to celebrate religious occasions like Ramadan and Eid, share resources, and advocate as one voice.

With united representation by one elected representative, we are able to achieve better outcomes for our community. We at AMSSA believe it is important for North Melbourne to remain in the electorate of Melbourne, where residents of Melbourne's public housing towers who are of Islamic faith are represented under one Division.

Sincerely,
Adam Salah Mohamed

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