



Objection 483

Kefayat Jahanpaima

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To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this process. I write to express my opposition to the proposed redistribution in Wills. As a long-term resident of Coburg and a mother of eight children, including four sons who reside in Wills with their families, I am deeply invested in our community's cohesion and representation.

I strongly oppose the proposal to remove parts of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, and Brunswick West from Wills. Splitting these suburbs from Wills disregards the cohesive 'communities of interest' they currently form. These areas share similar needs and characteristics, and moving them into Maribyrnong would not align with their current electoral representation.

Being part of the Muslim community, I experience firsthand the importance of community ties within Wills. Although I live in Coburg, I frequently visit Fawkner, Pascoe Vale, Oak Park, and Glenroy to purchase high-quality halal products and support local supermarkets often managed by Islamic community groups. These establishments provide imported goods from the Middle East, including herbs and spices not readily available in mainstream stores. Moreover, local restaurants and cafes in Coburg, Fawkner, and Glenroy predominantly cater to halal dietary requirements, meeting the specific needs of our community in Wills.

In contrast, such businesses are not as prevalent in Fitzroy North, Princes Hill, Carlton North, or Maribyrnong suburbs. I do not feel connected to these areas nor do I feel a sense of belonging, as there are fewer people who share my cultural background.

Medical services also play a crucial role in maintaining community cohesion. I rely on clinics in Fawkner and Glenroy where several general practitioners and specialists speak Farsi, which facilitates better communication and understanding of my healthcare needs. Finding similar culturally tailored medical services in nearby electorates has proven challenging due to language barriers. As I continue to age, my medical needs are becoming more of a priority – being able to communicate with a culturally competent medical practitioner is essential.

Therefore, I request that the Committee retain Oak Park, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West within the Wills electorate. This decision would preserve existing community connections established within Wills. It will also acknowledge the culturally competent services that have been established to cater to the growing needs of specific cultural groups that have become part of the social fabric of Wills.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Regards,

Kefayat Jahanpaima