



Objection 500

Mahin Alizadeh-Motlagh

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Dear Committee,

I'm writing to oppose the proposed changes in Wills, especially the idea of removing parts of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, and Brunswick West. These areas share common interests and cultural ties, and moving them to Maribyrnong would disrupt the strong community we've built in Wills.

Wills is home to a growing Iranian community, which is really important to me as an Iranian Australian living in Oak Park. I've also been involved as an early learning educator and volunteered at Glenroy Neighbourhood House, so I feel deeply connected to this area.

Many of my friends live nearby in places like Pascoe Vale and Glenroy, where we share similar backgrounds and needs. The community here has developed services and businesses that cater to our cultural preferences. I often visit local Iranian and Afghan grocers in Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Coburg, and Glenroy, and use medical clinics where some doctors speak Farsi, which makes a big difference in our healthcare.

Living in Wills has also made it easier to advocate for our community's needs. Local services have started to understand our cultural challenges better and are starting to offer more appropriate services. It's harder to find these services in other areas because of language and cultural barriers.

I don't feel the same sense of belonging in places like Fitzroy North, Princes Hill, Carlton North, or the electorate of Maribyrnong. There are fewer people with my background there and fewer businesses that cater to our community's needs.

That's why I strongly urge the Committee to keep Oak Park, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West within the Wills electorate. It's important for our community to stay together, keep accessing the services we need, and have representation that understands our shared interests. As a member of a 'community of interest' (the Iranian community), I hope the committee can consider the needs of our cultural group.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind regards,

Mahin Alizadeh-Motlagh