



Objection 486

Farah Warsame

2 pages

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

The Somali Community has been connected to these areas for decades, raising their families and calling this area home. I have been the President of Somali Community Inc. for 8 years on different occasions and have also worked closely with members of the Somali Community for over 15 years.

There is high density of our Somali people in the public housing towers across the city of Melbourne, compared to statewide averages:

Suburb	Somalia
North Melbourne	15.44%
Carlton	32.51%
Collingwood	13.93%
Fitzroy	12.37%
Richmond	3.61%
South Yarra	0.86%
Prahran	0.00%
VIC Average	0.16%

(Source: ABS 2021 Census)

This adjustment to the Melbourne boundaries incorporates all of these neighbourhoods and their residents, uniting a significant portion of the Somali community residing in public housing throughout Melbourne.

Importantly, many services which specifically support the health and wellbeing of our African community are located within the electorate of Melbourne. They include:

- Most grassroots community organisations including Somali community Inc., Oromo community, Eritrean Community and so on.
- Cohealth
- Local Community Venues including the Djerring Flemington Hub
- Inner Melbourne Community Legal
- AMSSA
- Young Australian People

Cultural connection is vital for the Somali community in Victoria as it helps maintain their identity, traditions, and support systems in a new environment.

It also helps individuals stay connected to their roots, share their heritage with younger generations, and build a supportive community network. Engaging in cultural activities also promotes mental well-being and strengthens social bonds within the community.

Examples of places and events where the Somali community in Victoria comes together in these areas include:

- *Events and Festivals: Somali Day Australia Festivals, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha Festivals, Other cultural festivals.*
- *Ceremonies and Religious Occasions: Weddings, Ramadan iftar dinners, community prayers including significant religious periods.*
- *Community Gatherings: Somali Community Inc and support groups, Youth and women's groups focusing on cultural and social activities.*
- *Language Services: Somali language and tutoring sessions.*
- *Places of Worship: Mosques where Somali community members gather for prayers and religious events*

Connection for African residents in public housing across inner-city Melbourne is very important. Consolidating our community into a single electorate would enable our Member of Parliament to better grasp our unique challenges and advocate effectively on our behalf. I support the proposed redistribution plan to include South Yarra & Prahran in the federal electorate of Melbourne.

*Kind Regards,
Farah Warsame*