



# Objection 494

Abedin Jaleh

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Dear AEC Committee,

I am writing to object to the proposed redistribution suggested in Wills, including the decision to remove parts of Glenroy, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, and Brunswick West. These suburbs share common interests, cultural bonds, and essential needs. Moving them to Maribyrnong overlooks the cohesive community we have nurtured in Wills.

Wills is home to many members of the Iranian community. It is also home to many new refugees. These are considered communities of interests within Wills, and I am part of these groups. As a Pascoe Vale resident, a brick layer and person who has sought refuge in Australia from Iran, I have formed a strong connection to the suburb I live in and the electorate of Wills.

It has taken me some time to feel connected with the community and find my place. I have many friends who live in nearby suburbs, such as Oak Park and Glenroy – many of us are from similar cultural backgrounds, and share similar experiences. Many of us have sought refuge in Australia, after experiencing challenging circumstances overseas.

I chose to live in Wills as I highly value the local connections and services that cater to our cultural needs. Over time, the cultural fabric of the Wills community has led to the establishment of culturally appropriate services, medical practices, grocers and local businesses. I often visit Oak Park, Coburg and Glenroy to access local businesses (including Iranian and Afghan grocers) as well as medical clinics, where several general practitioners speak Farsi, helping to ensure the healthcare needs of our community are met.

Being part of the growing Iranian community also makes it less challenging from an advocacy perspective – when I seek support from local, state and federal bodies for assistance, they have often become familiar with challenges that face the Iranian community. Services are beginning to be more culturally competent and tailored to our specific needs. Finding similar services in neighbouring electorates is difficult, due to language barriers and cultural disparities.

I do not feel connected to Fitzroy North, Princes Hill, Carlton North, or the suburbs of Maribyrnong, where there are fewer people who share my cultural background and fewer community-focused businesses that meet the needs of my community. Therefore, I strongly urge the Committee to keep all of Oak Park, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West within the Wills electorate. This decision is crucial to uphold our community's cohesion, ensure access to vital services, and maintain representation that reflects our shared interests and needs.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Best regards,

Abedin Jaleh