



Objection 396

Abdella Umar

2 pages

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

I Abdella Umar, a chairman of the Australian Oromo Community Association in Victoria, am writing in support of the AEC's proposed redistribution of Victorian electoral boundaries, connecting areas of South Yarra and Prahran into the federal electorate of Melbourne.

I am a proud member of Melbourne's Oromo Community, and lived in public housing at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for 7 years in the 1990s. Currently a lot of my friends live in these neighbourhood i.e. Oromos, Ethiopians, Somalis and others. I am currently a Chairman of the Oromo Community Association in Victoria.

The 2021 Census shows that there is a significantly higher density of our different African communities in the public housing towers across the city of Melbourne, compared to statewide averages:

Suburb	Ethiopia	Somalia	Eritrean	Oromo	African, so described
North Melbourne	5.66%	15.44%	5.01%	2.09%	3.16%
Carlton	8.00%	32.51%	12.00%	2.80%	12.78%
Collingwood	9.29%	13.93%	5.05%	5.46%	4.51%
Fitzroy	10.14%	12.37%	8.76%	2.51%	5.67%
Richmond	5.12%	3.61%	1.32%	5.91%	4.33%
South Yarra	2.93%	0.86%	2.24%	1.90%	4.48%
Prahran	2.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
VIC Average	0.21%	0.16%	0.08%	0.03%	0.22%

(Source: ABS 2021 Census)

The inclusion of these neighbourhoods and the constituents that reside within them brings together a large majority of the community of African Ancestry people living in public housing, across the city of Melbourne.

There are so many common ceremonies and cultural sharing happening among these communities. For example the Eid Festivals in Melbourne are shared by many Muslim Oromos and Somalis. There are many Ethiopian orthodox religious ceremonies shared by many groups. There are also many Oromo festivals which are shared by many Ethiopians and Somalis. There are also common understanding and sharing of languages ie. Oromo, Somali and Amharic. Having these people together in the same electorate is very useful for the community - we also share common food and shoppings, and I believe there are a lot of economic benefits in considering these communities together.

Importantly, many services which specifically support the health and wellbeing of our African community are located within the electorate of Melbourne. There are so many things, including cultural and herbal medicine practices that these communities share. In the interest of connecting

significant communities and cultural groups, I believe it is important for the community of African people living in public housing across inner city Melbourne to be brought together into one electorate. Having a single member representing us allows the MP to deeply understand the issues and the experience of our community, and advocate strongly on our behalf. With this in mind, I am in full support of the proposed redistribution to bring South Yarra & Prahran into the federal electorate of Melbourne.

Abdella Umar