



Objection 472

Maryam Reshadati

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Dear Redistribution Committee,

As a resident of Pascoe Vale and a Nurse, I am writing to express my strong objections to the proposed boundary changes affecting the Division of Wills for several reasons.

The suburbs of Oak Park, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale South, and Brunswick West are proposed to be removed from Wills. These areas have longstanding connections with a number of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, who have become an integral part of the social fabric of our community. I always felt a sense of connection to Moreland (now known as Merri-bek). Wills is a multicultural hub – the needs of communities across these suburbs are similar – they should not be split and put into Maribyrnong, an electorate that does not represent a comparable community of interest.

The proposed changes ignore the established communities of interest within Wills, which have developed over many years and generations. One of these groups is the Iranian community, who are steadily growing in areas such as Pascoe Vale, Glenroy, and Oak Park. I am part of the Iranian community - many of us feel strongly connected and splitting us off into two electorates will diminish our growth, as a community of interest that has formed within Wills.

Fragmenting these communities also risks disrupting the supportive infrastructure, including culturally competent services that residents rely on through their association with Merri-bek LGA and Wills. This includes culturally competent medical and health services, such as medical clinics with bilingual medical practitioners. There are currently many Iranian general practitioners within Merri-Bek and Wills, catering to the cultural needs of diverse residents. Excluding parts of these suburbs from Wills undermines efforts to support our communities to remain connected to services and to thrive.

This proposal also creates an artificial split between the suburbs. At the moment, part of the border between the electorate of Wills and the electoral Division of Melbourne, which runs along Park Street and up Lygon street acts as a suitable border, separating the two divisions.

For these reasons I request that the Committee keep Oak Park, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale South and Brunswick West in Wills (and for Wills to continue excluding the suburbs of Fitzroy North, Carlton North and Princes Hill).

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

Maryam Reshadati
Resident of Pascoe Vale