



Objection Number 45

Sr Sally Bradley, Exodus Community and Sisters of Mercy

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From: Sally Bradley [salbrad@netspace.net.au]
Sent: Friday, 27 August 2010 10:36 AM
To: VIC Redistribution
Subject: Redistribution of Jagajaga

TO THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

It has been drawn to my attention that the Australian Electoral Commission has put forward a proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries for Victoria. For the area of Jagajaga, of which I am a constituent, this means taking out West Heidelberg and Ivanhoe, west of Waterdale Rd and putting it into Batman.

I believe this is not suitable, especially for those who live in West Heidelberg. I believe the community of West Heidelberg should not be split up.

I am a Catholic Sister of Mercy and have been part of a live-in community for the last 13 years in the Old Olympic Village area of West Heidelberg. Our community's property is in Liberty Parade, West Heidelberg. We belong to the Catholic parish of St. Pius X, in Waterdale Rd and service the whole of the West Heidelberg area. In the course of my outreach work, I know many local people and a wide network of support agencies in the area. We have an outreach to hundreds of households.

I believe that splitting this already very vulnerable community in half does it no good whatsoever.

Across all of West Heidelberg there are many pockets of high social and economic disadvantage. Public housing is in very poor condition and there is considerable lack of stock. There is a strong Somalian community in West Heidelberg. While people struggle with economic disadvantage, there is a deep sense of connection to the whole of West Heidelberg and Heidelberg Heights. People are very local in their sense of belonging and they often do not have the confidence to venture outside the local vicinity to seek support or advocacy.

I believe such a change of electoral boundaries would be most unsettling for this already vulnerable community who already feel powerless in so many other ways in relation to government issues and support.

Thank you for taking time to read my concerns.

(Sr) Sally Bradley
(Exodus Community and Sisters of Mercy)