



Objection 308

Sharzad Ghased

1 pages

Dear Redistribution Secretariat,

I am a local Wills resident – I lived in Fawkner for 2 years and currently live in Glenroy (for the past 3 years). I am writing to oppose the proposed redistribution in the division of Wills – I do not agree with the proposal to remove parts of Oak Park, Pascoe Vale, Brunswick West and Glenroy from our electorate.

I arrived in Australia as a refugee from Iran in 2019. I left my friends, family and community in Iran. I felt very isolated and alone when I first arrived in Melbourne. I attended local English language classes to strengthen my language skills. I also joined a local Iranian women's community group. I finally found a place in the community where I felt connected to others – these have all been linked to Wills.

Although I live in Glenroy, I feel connected with other members of the growing Iranian community who live throughout Pascoe Vale, Glenroy and Oak Park. I support local ethnic businesses, including Islamic, Iranian and Afghan grocers, halal butchers and supermarkets – these are spread throughout Glenroy, Pascoe Vale and Coburg. It is important for me to remain connected with others who speak Farsi (my language) in Wills – people in Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Carlton North, and in suburbs of Maribyrnong do not speak Farsi or follow similar cultural practices to me. I don't feel a sense of connection or feel like I would ever belong to these communities or suburbs.

Our communities live in Glenroy, Pascoe Vale and Oak Park – I do not want us to be split across two LGAs and Federal electorates. It will not allow us to feel connected to one another or our local community.

The changes being proposed in Wills will not support our sense of connection. I do not want to be split from my community – I already experienced this once as a refugee who came to Australia – I do not wish to do this again.

I request that the composition of the suburbs in Wills does not change. Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Yours truly,

Sharzad Ghased