



Objection 439

Ethiopian Community Association in Victoria

2 pages



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ABN 96 002 827 695 INC VIC No A009465W

To the Australian Electoral Commission,

I, Tesfaye Yigzawe, President of the Ethiopian Community Association of Victoria (ECAV), 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 Ethiopian community. As shown below, there is a large cohort of Ethiopians who have lived in public housing for many years. ECAV is an umbrella community organization representing most people of Ethiopian ancestry in Australia. As the president of the organization, it is my duty to lobby on behalf of the members of the community.

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

Understanding our community

There is high density of our different African communities in the public housing towers across the city of Melbourne, compared to statewide averages:

Suburb	Ethiopia	Somalia	Eritrean	African, so described
North Melbourne	7.75%	15.44%	5.01%	3.16%
Carlton	10.80%	32.51%	12.00%	12.78%
Collingwood	14.75%	13.93%	5.05%	4.51%
Fitzroy	12.65%	12.37%	8.76%	5.67%
Richmond	11.03%	3.61%	1.32%	4.33%
South Yarra	4.83%	0.86%	2.24%	4.48%
Prahran	2.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
VIC Average	0.24%	0.16%	0.08%	0.22%

(Source: ABS 2021 Census)

Cultural connection and support services

Migrants are more susceptible to social isolation due to language barriers, age, religious beliefs, and employment status. However, community events, religious occasions, and sporting activities help break these barriers and bring marginalized and isolated members of the community together. All these services are concentrated in the federal electorate of Melbourne. Importantly, many services which specifically support the health and wellbeing of our African community are located within the electorate of Melbourne.

Email: info@ethiopiancommunity.org.au

Website: ethiopiancommunity.org.au (under construction)

WhatsApp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KWmi25cyQq0J4GCKnN5s9u>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068576754875&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

POBox: 2177, Footscray, 3011 VIC



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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. I am in full support of the proposed redistribution to bring South Yarra & Prahran into the federal electorate of Melbourne.

Yours sincerely,

Tesfaye Yigzawe (PhD)
President ECAV

Email: info@ethiopiancommunity.org.au

Website: ethiopiancommunity.org.au (under construction)

WhatsApp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KWmi25cyQq0J4GCKnN5s9u>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068576754875&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

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