



16 May 2024

You are invited to attend our meeting next WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024 at 6.30PM.

Please join Labor for Refugees to receive the link for the meeting.

The Minutes of our last meeting follow [MinutesL4RNSW-ACT24April24](#)

Labor delays Deportation Bill

In our last newsletter, we reported that Labor for Refugees NSW/ACT made a submission on the 10 April, on the Migration Amendment (Removals and Other Measures) Bill 2024, to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

We expressed our grave concerns about this Bill, concerns reflected by many other groups who also made submissions. In fact there were a total of 119 submissions of which only 1 supported the Bill and that was from the Dept of Home Affairs.

The link to our submission follows: [L4RNSW/ACTsubmissionDeportationBill10Apr24](#)

Today, we learnt that Labor has delayed debating this Bill in the Senate and that the earliest the government could bring the powers back to the Senate is late June.

We hope that commonsense has prevailed and that at the very least, before any further debate goes ahead, the government does a better job of examining the judgements made by the High Court of Australia and compares the Court's reasons to the government's Bill.

The link to today's ABC News coverage of this announcement follows:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-05-16/labor-coalition-urgent-immigration-deportation-powers-delayed/103852830>

Meeting the Immigration Minister

Labor for Refugees met online with Immigration Minister Andrew Giles on the 23 April last. We were represented by Labor for Refugees NSW/ACT, Vic and Qld. We sent an agenda to the minister beforehand, listing a number of issues we wanted to raise with him. At the meeting, we also highlighted what we believed were ALP National Platform policies that were either being breached or had no timelines attached to them and were therefore not yet implemented.

A detailed report will be sent to you once we have verified, what issues were conveyed to us in confidence.

One thing that became clear to us, was that we also need to meet with the Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil, on the basis that Andrew Giles did not want to comment on issues that came under the Home Affairs Minister's jurisdiction and suggested we raise our concerns with her.

A letter was sent to Minister O'Neil on the 1 May last, requesting an online meeting, which would allow us the opportunity to have her respond to our questions.

High Court dismisses key challenge to indefinite immigration detention. What does it mean?

On the 10 May last, the High Court unanimously ruled that the Australian government can keep asylum seekers in immigration detention indefinitely in cases where they do not "voluntarily" cooperate with their own deportation.

This ruling is best summarised in an article from "The Conversation" which explains the implications of this ruling

<https://theconversation.com/high-court-dismisses-key-challenge-to-indefinite-immigration-detention-what-does-it-mean-229628>

We concur with the last sentence in this article which states *"Ultimately, the decision is a missed opportunity to move away from Australia's harmful use of immigration detention that allows for some people to be detained their entire lives"*.

NSW Labor Conference - Refugee motion

The L4R NSW/ACT refugee motion, which we have promoted for the NSW conference which takes place on the 27 and 28 July, has been supported by many branches. The deadline for submitting motions to the NSW Conference has now passed.

We shall see if Multiculturalism Minister Steve Kamper, agrees to meet with us prior to the conference. We'd like to discuss our motion with the Minister. On the 6 May 2024, we sent him an invitation to meet with us.

This motion also comes under the purview of the NSW Education Minister Pru Car but we wanted to focus on the fact that if the NSW Government agrees to wave the Application Fee for all children who wish to access public education (means-tested), it will have a major impact on the children of refugee families.

As the background to our motion states "*There are about 12,000 students from refugee backgrounds enrolled in NSW's public schools, with about 1,800 starting as new students each year. (SMH 24 March 2024)*".

The motion follows: [L4RNSW/ACTrefugeemotionNSWConf2024](#)

We are also currently in the process of organising our L4R Fringe Event for the conference.

Help sought for Hazara men trapped in Indonesia

Talent Beyond Boundaries works with the Australian Government to deliver the [Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement Pilot program](#). The program was launched in July 2021 and extended for a further 2 years in July 2023. There are 500 primary applicant visa places available to candidates under this program between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2025.

Co-designed by TBB, the pilot aims to remove barriers that displaced people face when trying to access employer-sponsored skilled migration pathways and make it easier for Australian employers to hire from this overlooked talent pool.

Under the pilot, employers endorsed by TBB can enter into a company-specific labour agreement with the Department of Home Affairs. The labour agreement allows the employer to sponsor TBB-endorsed job seekers.

One of our active L4R members, Jill Horton, recently wrote to us, seeking assistance for this pilot program which would help Hazari refugees stranded in Indonesia to access it, in the hope that they can be resettled in Australia.

Jill's letter follows:

Hi All

I would like to introduce and suggest having Sultani, a Hazara man who was in Indonesia as a refugee for 9 years and works with Cisarua Learning Centre with Muzafar Ali and Jolyon Hoff from the Staging Post film, to connect with refugee groups to help Hazara refugees in Indonesia with permanent resettlement in Australia and fill jobs that are not able to be filled. For example: at Meatworks, Aged care, Child care, Mechanics, Factories, Agriculture and Hospitality.

There are approximately 13,700 refugees currently stranded in Indonesia, unable to access any form of durable solution. More than half of them — about 7,600 — are refugees from Afghanistan who are mainly ethnic Hazara.

Sultani came to Australia on the Employer Nomination Scheme within 4 months of his application last year being submitted and he would like speak to groups at refugee membership meetings or arrange to have an email sent out to the groups

members.

Sultani is interested in finding people who have business connections who are in need of staff to consider speaking to him about bringing Hazara refugees in Indonesia to Australia or providing referrals.

Sultani wants to connect with groups and businesses to build relationships to find links to help the Hazara refugees in Indonesia come to Australia and work for the company for 2 years and have permanent residency on arrival.

This can include those who arrived after June 2014 when Morrison stopped resettlement for those arrivals.

Here is the website on the pilot program <https://www.talentbeyondboundaries.org/australia>

The 900 occupations eligible under the Government's Skilled Refugee Labour Agreement Pilot program
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/employer-subsite/files/list-occupations-skilled-refugee-pilot.pdf>

If you can please consider hosting Sultani at your next meeting or sending out an email to your members that would be amazing.

Please contact Sultani directly to arrange the meeting at 0416354777 or by email sultani@cisarualearning.com

Please share this email with others to help those trapped in Indonesia.

*Thank you
Jill Horton*

Outstanding issues

Members may be interested in reading a document recently compiled by Labor for Refugees Victoria. The Victorians are holding their State ALP Conference this coming weekend and this document will be handed out to attending Delegates/Observers [L4RVicCurrentIssuesMay24](#)

Regards

Nizza Siano
Secretary L4R NSW
email: contact@labor4refugees.com

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Our mailing address is:

Labor for Refugees (NSW)

Bellevue Hill

Sydney, NSW 2023

Australia

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