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| L4R newsletter - keeping you informed and up to date on our current issues and challenges. | Is this email not displaying correctly?[View it in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/9a42758fd3f1/news-update?e=f705cf268c).  |

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| Labor for Refugees New South Wales |

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| **19 June 2024****You are invited to attend our meeting next WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2024 at 6.30PM.**  **To receive the Zoom link, please join Labor for Refugees.****The Minutes of our last meeting follow**[*MinutesL4RNSW-ACT22May24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=9a7da1434b&e=f705cf268c)

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| **Report on our meeting with Immigration Minister Andrew Giles** |
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**As reported in our last newsletter, Labor for Refugees met online with Immigration Minister Andrew Giles on the 23 April 2024.  It was a national meeting so we had representatives attending from L4R NSW/ACT, Vic and Qld.   We worked our way through our agenda which we had sent to the Minister in advance of our meeting.The following is a link to the report of our meeting which was compiled by L4R NSW Assistant Secretary Cath Crittenden with input from NSW Co-Convenor Jenny Haines**[*L4RmtgwithAndrewGilesReport23Apr24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=be34437ffc&e=f705cf268c)**Meeting scheduled with Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil**  **Andrew Giles did not want to comment on issues that came under the Home Affairs Minister's portfolio and suggested we raise our concerns directly with Clare O'Neil.  We wrote to the Home Affairs Minister last month and she agreed to meet us online on Wednesday 24 July.We have sent the Minister a list of the issues we wish to raise with her.  L4R will once again, be represented nationally at this meeting by Office Bearers from each of our L4R groups.****Deportation Bill update**  **You would be aware from our previous two newsletters, that on the 10 April last,  Labor for Refugee made a submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, strongly opposing the Migration Amendment (Removals and Other Measures) Bill 2024. The link to our submission follows**[*L4RNSW/ACTsubmissionDeportationBill10Apr24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=eb756aa8ac&e=f705cf268c)**An update of the latest developments re this Bill, compiled by L4R ACT member Lauren Honcope, follows**[*L4RUpdateonDeportationBill19Jun24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=4a1ef45363&e=f705cf268c)  **A win!NSW Labor Conference motionOver the last few months, our motion for the NSW Conference, has been supported by many branches and some SECs.**  **We initially focused our campaign on Multiculturalism Minister Steve Kamper, with a view to meeting him prior to the conference to advocate for our motion.  However, at our last meeting, we decided to turn our attention to the NSW Education Minister Prue Car.  We were aware that if our motion were to be adopted, it would have the potential to improve the lives of many students from refugee backgrounds, by making access to public education more affordable.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)".*We then wrote to Minister Car, outlining the hardship that some families faced by having to pay up front for an Application Fee for their children to enrol in public schools.  If they succeeded in having the fee waived, the Dept refunded them.  There were examples where processing applications were taking far too long.  We urged her to waive the Application Fee, in the same way that means-tested Tuition Fees are waived.On the 3 June last, a number of branches who had supported out motion, received a response from Minister Car. The Minister advised that this practice would cease and effective from the 22 April 2024, a new system would apply where the applicants would automatically be exempt from the Application Fee.  In her letter, she stated that the Education Department supports a full waiver of both the Application Fee and Tuition Fee for students holding a number of visas which she listed.  She clarified that this waiver also applied to all new arrivals from the Ukraine as well as Israeli and Palestinian residents of Gaza.Please read the Minister's letter for details of the current policy re the payment of fees for children who wish to enrol in public schools**[*L4RmotionEducationMinCar3Jun24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=0d9007180e&e=f705cf268c)**If you wish to read the wording of our motion to conference again, it follows:**[*L4RNSW/ACTrefugeemotionNSWConf2024*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=f3ea72cf2f&e=f705cf268c)  **NSW Labor Conference Fringe Event****L4R NSW/ACT is currently organising our L4R Fringe Event for the forthcoming Conference. It will take place on the weekend of either Saturday 27 or Sunday 28 July.  We have already secured our guest speakers and once we have all the details, we'll promote it in our next newsletter.**

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| **Regards****Nizza SianoSecretary L4R NSWemail:***contact@labor4refugees.com* |
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