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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/e98c7ea25ade/campaigning-pays-off?e=f705cf268c). | |

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| |  | | --- | | [Labor for Refugees New South Wales](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=845af49082&e=f705cf268c) | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **20 August 2024**  **You are invited to attend our meeting next week on WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST 2024 at 6.30PM.**    **Please join Labor for Refugees NSW/ACT to receive the Zoom link to the meeting.**  **The Minutes of our last meeting follow**[*MinutesL4RNSW-ACT24July24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=83fbbb25ad&e=f705cf268c)   |  | | --- | |  | | **Win for refugees at NSW Labor Conference**  **NSW Labor held its Conference on the weekend of the 27 and 28 July.  Labor for Refugees NSW/ACT Secretary Nizza Siano, took the opportunity on the first day of conference, to make a speech to conference delegates about the work being carried out by Labor for Refugees.  She stressed that we would not have been successful in our endeavours to reform the Party's Platform on refugees and people seeking asylum, had it not been for the support we receive from our members for our campaigns.  ALP branch members from all factions have endorsed our motions over the years and submitted them to conference.  Nizza pointed out that because we ran a successful campaign this year, to ensure that all fees would be waived for refugee/humanitarian students and were supported by the NSW Education Minister Prue Car, it ensured the success of our motion.  The wording of our motion to conference follows**[*L4RNSW/ACTrefugeemotionNSWConf2024*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=6aeb2e156d&e=f705cf268c) **A special thanks goes to those Labor for Refugees members who volunteered to circulate our Labor for Refugees leaflet at the conference.  Unfortunately, the Fringe Events were cancelled by NSW Labor.  A copy of our latest leaflet can be found at**[*L4RNSW/ACTLeafletJuly24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=2a22cfcd78&e=f705cf268c) |   **Meeting with new Home Affairs & Immigration Minister Tony Burke**  **It was reported in our last newsletter, that we had secured a date to meet the then Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil on the 24 July.  This was to be a meeting of national representatives of our L4R groups.  The meeting was subsequently cancelled by Minister O'Neil and she was subsequently moved into another portfolio. Tony Burke has replaced both Clare O'Neil and the previous Immigration Minister Andrew Giles and is now responsible for both portfolios.  We have since written to Tony requesting a meeting and plan to raise the same list of issues we were originally going to raise with Clare O'Neil.   We took the opportunity in our letter to Tony, to raise our concerns about the remaining refugees on PNG, the detainees on Nauru, those refugees stranded in Indonesia and and the remaining Australian citizens detained in camps in Syria.  You can find our letter to the Minister here**[*L4RNCCletterTonyBurke11Aug24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=0ad4b54608&e=f705cf268c) **Community Sponsorship Programs v humanitarian numbers**  **The government made a commitment in August 2023, to expand its humanitarian intake quote to 20,000 places per annum.  The Community Refugee Intergration and Settlement Pilot - known as CRISP - is Australia's refugee sponsorship program.  The government had also committed to progressively increase this community sponsorship program from 5,000 to 10,000 places per year.  L4R had written to the previous Immigration Minister Andrew Giles on 11 July last, to make the point that the government had committed to having these 10,000 community resettlement intakes, as  'additional' to the yearly humanitarian intake.  This commitment is stated in Labor's 2023 National Platform.   We pointed out to the Minister that in spite of this policy commitment, the CRISP program numbers are currently still within this humanitarian quota of 20,000 for 2023-24 and that the intention was that there be two separate intakes of refugees.**  **There are dedicated community groups who feel cheated because they work hard to support refugees through community sponsorship by fundraising and working through the settlement process.  They believe the government should recognise this effort by following through on its promise to assign extra visa allocations to the CRISP program, separate from the humanitarian program.  Labor for Refugees agrees and on the 13 August 2024, redirected the letter we sent to Andrew Giles, to Minister Burke.  The letter follows**[*L4RletterMinBurkeSponsorshipvHumanitarian13Aug24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=58d204666a&e=f705cf268c)  **Fast tracking of skilled refugees**  **We are planning to mount a campaign later this year to remove barriers to utilising the existing professional skills of refugees living in our community, by introducing a fast-track system that would allow them to qualify more quickly to take on roles, particularly where there are jobs with gaps to fill.**  **Labor for Refugees member, Lauren Honcope, drafted a paper, outlining the background for this campaign, input made by our members, issues we need to face and the steps Labor for Refugees can take calling for action.  It was decided to wait until after the local government election is over in NSW before we initiate this campaign.**    **In the meantime, you can read the paper formulated by Lauren**[S](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=b8bb670a43&e=f705cf268c)[*killsRecognitionforRefugeesJul24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=b95e37cf1e&e=f705cf268c)***.*  Please look out for the announcement of the launch of our campaign some time in September/October this year.**     |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **The health crisis in offshore detention - petition**    **The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) has asked us to add our name to the call, urging Prime Minister Albanese and Minister Burke to evacuate every single person from Papua New Guinea and Nauru to safety.**  **Last month marks 11 years of the Australian Government’s cruel and inhumane offshore detention policy. It was on 19 July 2013 that then Prime Minister Rudd stated: *“From now on, any asylum seeker who arrives in Australia by boat, will have no chance of being settled in Australia as refugees.”*  To mark the date, the ASRC released a report ‘Cruelty by Design’, which details the health issues faced by people who have spent more than a decade in limbo in PNG and those recently transferred to Nauru. The report makes for heavy, but important reading and was informed by the Detention Rights Advocacy Program, medical professionals, refugees and people seeking asylum with direct experience of offshore detention.**    **The ASRC is asking us all to support this call by**[adding your name here](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=fc5a6413a2&e=f705cf268c)**.**  **You can read the ASRC's report:** '[Cruelty by design: the health crisis in offshore detention](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=79045dcdb6&e=f705cf268c)' | | |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Regards**  **Nizza Siano Secretary L4R NSW email:**[*contact@labor4refugees.com*](mailto:contact@labor4refugees.com) | |  | | |  |      |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | | |
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