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| **Subject:** | Meeting the Immigration Minister |
| **Date:** | 21 Sep 2022 at 10:17:03 am |

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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/fe68bd85ef4f/meeting-the-immigration-minister?e=f705cf268c).  |

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| Labor for Refugees New South Wales |

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| **21 September 2022****Dear****Annual General Meeting - Report****Our L4R NSW/ACT Annual General Meeting took place on 24 August last, with guest speaker Madeline Gleeson doing a presentation on the *"International Implications of Australia's Asylum Policies"*.  Madeline introduced her talk by telling us a little about the work of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW Law, where she works as a lawyer.   This Centre is the world's leading research centre dedicated to the study of international refugee law.****Madeline then moved on to a slide presentation. Rather than attempting to convey the information and statistics we saw on these slides, please use the following link to access them**[*KaldorCentreslidesL4RAGM24-8-22*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=c7b5f1f3a6&e=f705cf268c)**The observation made about the success of offshore processing, is very interesting.****After the slide presentation, Madeline answered many questions from members and at the end, was thanked by acclamation for her excellent presentation.****Election of Office Bearers****The following members were elected as Office Bearers for 2022/23.****Convenors (2):                            Jenny Haines & Shane Prince SCSnr Vice-President:                    Dr. Sabrin Farooqui****Jnr Vice-Presidents (2):             Shannen Potter & Cian GaleaTreasurer and Social Media:     Jenny HainesSecretary:                                    Nizza SianoAsst Secretary & Webmaster:   Cath CrittendenReturning Officer:                       Chris HavilandThe Committee looks forward to working with our members to improve the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum.Appeal for Funds****Labor for refugees has over the years, made donations to a number of worthwhile refugee causes. In the past, we were able to raise funds by holding fund-raising dinners.  Due to COVID-19 we have not done so for a number of years.  Our funds are slowly being depleted and in order to raise funds quickly, prior to the NSW Labor Conference next month, it was resolved that we appeal to members for donations.****L4R has never imposed membership fees so we are hoping that members will feel generous and be prepared to make a donation.** **If you wish to donate, please do so using the following account details to make online donations and please don't forget to submit your name.****Labor for Refugees NSWCommonwealth Bank BSB: 062-006Acct No: 10405538.**  **Our next L4R meeting Our monthly online meeting takes place next Wednesday 28 September at 6.30pm.****The link to the minutes of last month's Annual General Meeting and general meeting is**[*L4RMinutes24Aug22*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=7e1a3e43ff&e=f705cf268c)**Meeting the Immigration Minister****After failing to secure a meeting with the Homes Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil, we are now meeting with the Immigration Minister Andrew Giles in Canberra next Monday 26 September. Our original meeting with Minister Giles was scheduled for last week but after Parliament was cancelled, we were forced to reschedule our meeting.****We plan to raise a list of refugee issues with the Minister, particularly those policies that have been adopted in Labor's Platform which we expected to be implemented when Labor formed government.  While we are aware of the challenges facing Labor, inherited from the previous Coalition government, there are issues that we believe are urgent and we need to establish what Labor is doing to address them as well as the timelines in which they will be implemented.****We will report back to members about our meeting with Andrew Giles at our next L4R meeting on the 28 September.****Local Government & Refugees****Our L4R Snr Vice-President Sabrin Farooqui, who is also a Councillor, moved a motion at her Cumberland Council meeting on 7 September last, asking the NSW State Govt to provide increased support for Local Govt and charity organisations, to assist people seeking asylum. The motion was supported unanimously in the Chamber.  A number of representatives from asylum seeker service providers came to the public gallery and spoke that night to support the motion.  This motion carries significant weight because it will now be sent to the Local Govt NSW Annual Conference which will take place next month. Sabrin was inspired to move her motion after L4R submitted a motion for inclusion at the October NSW Labor Conference, about providing services to refugees and people seeking asylum in our community. Sabrin’s motion follows:“That Council submit the following Motion for consideration at the LGNSW Conference 2022:MOTION“That Local Government NSW advocate to the NSW Government to increase support to:**•       **people in NSW who are seeking asylum, and**•       **those charities and not for profit organisations that assist people in NSW who are seeking asylum.****Such increased support would serve to alleviate the cost-shifting to local councils that is presently occurring in this area of need.”****We congratulate Sabrin for her successful advocacy on behalf of refugees and people seeking asylum.****NSW Labor Conference****The NSW Labor Conference takes place on the weekend of 15 and 16 October.  We have not yet heard anything about being able to hire a stall or hold a Fringe Event, which we have always done on behalf of L4R at previous conferences.  We suspect that as it's already September, these facilities will not be offered to participants this year.****This is a shame because State Conference has always been a good opportunity to meet up and engage with members and supporters of L4R from all over our state at our stall.  It has also enabled us to recruit new members.****L4R is hopeful that the Conference will adopt our refugee motion, asking NSW Labor in government, to increase a number of services for those refugees and people seeking asylum living in our community, who are struggling.****Regards****Nizza SianoSecretary L4R NSWemail:***contact@labor4refugees.com*

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