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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **19 April 2023**  **You are invited to attend our APRIL meeting  Our next online meeting  will take place on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 6.30pm. Please become a member to be able to Zoom in to the meeting.**  **The link to the minutes of our last meeting in March 2023 is**[*L4RMinutes29Mar2*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=3a4693fff0&e=ba8211a97d)[*3*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=91b7d6fce1&e=ba8211a97d)    **ALP National Conference 2023n - Refugee motion**  **At our last L4R meeting, members endorsed the wording of a motion around which we will run a campaign in the lead up to Labor's National Conference.  The conference takes place in Brisbane on the Thursday 17th, Friday 18th & Saturday 19th August at the Brisbane Convention Centre.  Delegates to this conference from NSW have yet to be elected.**    **Since our last meeting, we have added two points to the motion so we now need to ensure that this change is acceptable to our members.  This issue will be on our agenda for our meeting next week when we hope to finalise the wording.   In the meantime, our other L4R groups in Queensland and Victoria will be consulting with members re this motion in their respective states.   It's important that we all agree on the wording of the motion as it will form an integral part of our national campaign.   The next step will be to promote this motion and encourage ALP members to submit it as a National Conference agenda item when the ALP calls for submissions. Conference is our best chance of reforming Labor's refugee policies.**  **So please attend our meeting next week to participate in these discussions.    Refugees on temporary visas  We reported in our last newsletter, that we sent Immigration Minister Giles a letter on 26 February last, asking him to share his plan with us, about what will happen to those people on temporary visas, who were not part of the 19,000 people permitted to apply for permanency.   We did not receive a response so sent a follow-up message on 9 April, requesting a reply from the Immigration Minister.**  **To recap, the original letter follows**[*L4RletterMinGilesreTPVs26Feb23*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=a0fab5e668&e=ba8211a97d)    **Family Reunions**  **A lengthy discussion took place at our March meeting, about the best way to convince the government to prioritise family reunions so that those refugees living in our community on refugee visas or on Resolution of Status (RoS) visas, tragically separated from their family members, can be reunited.**    **We identified the issue of exorbitant fees being charged for applications for partner visas, as a major hurdle.**    **Please read the letter we sent to Immigration Minister Andrew Giles on the 9 April last, with our suggestion that we believe would not only alleviate this suffering caused by the separation of families, but would be a way to remove the pressures on family members to use irregular modes of travel, in order to be reunited**[*L4Rrefamilyreunions9Apr23*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=38aafe36e0&e=ba8211a97d)  **The same letter was sent to the Minister for Finance Katy Gallagher.**    **What the NSW Labor election-win means for refugees**  **Prior to the NSW Labor Conference which took place on 15th and 16th October last year, members of L4R met with the then Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, Stephen Kamper.  Our aim was to lobby for a number of services, already being offered to migrants and included in Labor's NSW Platform, to be extended to refugees and people seeking asylum in NSW.**  **We cited an example of where these services were already being offered ie in the State of Victoria.**    **The Shadow Minister was very open to amending an existing clause in the NSW Platform which referred only to migrants, to include refugees and people seeking asylum and understood the importance of recognising the urgent needs of this cohort.**    **At the NSW Labor Conference, the following motion was accepted.**    **Happily, NSW Labor won the election and Stephen Kamper is now the NSW Minister for Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism and Sport.**    **L4R sent a congratulatory letter to the Minister on his elevation to Cabinet and stated that we recognised the demands of his portfolios and hoped to assist him in any way we could, to implement the policy for refugees, that was adopted at last year's NSW Labor Conference.**    **We look forward to working with the Minister.**    **Cisarua Learning Centre's new film**    **A new film *Watandar, My Countryman* will be in cinemas in May/June/July 2023. You can see the trailer here -**[https://vimeo.com/729465556](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=3cb8f8d707&e=ba8211a97d) ***Watandar, My Countryman*highlights the value of refugees in Australia.**  **'We are all a little bit more connected than we think.'**  **When Afghanistan falls to the Taliban a former Afghan refugee finds a new home in the Australian desert.**  **Cisarua also plans for every event to be an opportunity to promote the Yes vote for The Voice Referendum.  Please share the trailer and poster wherever you can. There is more information at**[watandar.com.au](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=cfd3228892&e=ba8211a97d)**Tickets are already on sale.**   |  | | --- | | **The screenings will be fundraisers for Cisarua Learning.** | |  |   **Regards**  **Nizza Siano Secretary L4R NSW email:**[*contact@labor4refugees.com*](mailto:contact@labor4refugees.com) | | |