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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/8a610b9e30fa/deportation-bill-controversy?e=ba8211a97d). |

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| Labor for Refugees New South Wales |

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| **17 April 2024****You are invited to attend our meeting next WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL 2024 at 6.30PM.** **To receive the Zoom link for the meeting, please join Labor for Refugees.****The Minutes of our last meeting follow**[*MinutesL4RNSW-ACT27Mar24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=c889aa4580&e=ba8211a97d)**Deportation Bill breaches Labor's National Platform**

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| **This was part of a headline that appeared in the Guardian newspaper on 11 April 2024.The article follows:**[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/apr/11/deportation-bill-breaches-labors-national-platform-alpt-pro-refugee-group-says](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=7ff34a12f0&e=ba8211a97d)**Labor for Refugees NSW/ACT made its submission on the Migration Amendment (Removals and Other Measures) Bill 2024 to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on 10 April last.****We highlighted the flaws of this Bill in some detail and raised our concerns,. These concerns were reflected by many other groups who also made submissions to the Committee.The link to our submission follows:**[***L4RNSW/ACTsubmissionDeportationBill10Apr24***](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=df162b295b&e=ba8211a97d) |
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**Meeting the Immigration Minister****Labor for Refugees has been attempting to set up a meeting with Immigration Minister Andrew Giles since late last year.   We would like the Minister to update us on the commitments he made at the August 2023 ALP National Conference. These commitments were adopted in Labor's National Platform. We also wish to raise other issues such as the recent Deportation Bill.** **We have a date for a meeting!Members of our three L4R groups representing Queensland, Victoria and NSW/ACT members, will meet Andrew Giles on Tuesday 23 April.**

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| **Help sought for Afghans - sponsorship****Late last year, Labor for Refugees wrote to the Immigration Minister Andrew Giles and Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong.  We expressed our concern for the Afghan nationals who at that time, were being expelled from Pakistan and were in fear of being forced back to Afghanistan.  This issue was discussed once again at our February meeting, with the focus being on sponsoring Afghan families from Pakistan using the partner visa system.****Most of these Afghans do not have any identity documents and/or passports so members felt that we should lobby the government to issue Australian travel documents to partner visa applicants/holders. This matter is urgent because the Pakistani government is trying to push Afghans in Pakistan back to Afghanistan.It was resolved at our March meeting that L4R again writes to Immigration Minister Andrew Giles, Foreign Minister Penny Wong and this time, to include all Independent MPs.   We will attach relevant documents, highlighting the problems these Afghans experience when trying to leave Pakistan so that they can be united with their families in Australia.Letters were sent on 26 March last.** |

 **Court assistance for people seeking asylum****At our last meeting, it was resolved that we write to the Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, proposing a way to alleviate the backlog of asylum seeker matters in the Federal Circuit and Family and Federal Courts.People seeking asylum face lengthy delays, waiting to have their protection claims assessed and determined.** **Labor for Refugees believes the efficiencies we have suggested in our letter, may lead to the reduction of the cost of litigation to the Commonwealth, a decrease in the backlog and waiting times for a hearing and increase access to justice for people seeking asylum.Our letter to the Attorney-General follows:**[*L4RtoAtt-GenCourtAssistforAsylumSeekers31Mar24*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=697dbb2f13&e=ba8211a97d) **NSW Labor Conference - Refugee motion****The NSW Labor Conference takes place on the weekend of the 27 and 28 July 2024.****The L4R NSW/ACT refugee motion, which we have promoted, has been widely circulated by our members among Labor branches.  The deadline for submitting motions to the NSW Conference is COB 15 May 2024.****If your ALP branch has not yet met this month, you still have time to ask your branch members to endorse our motion and submit it to the NSW Conference.  The motion follows:**[*L4RNSW/ACTrefugeemotionNSWConf2024*](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=e36288c8d2&e=ba8211a97d)**Meeting the NSW Minister for MulticulturalismLabor for Refugees will meet Multiculturalism Minister Steve Kamper's Deputy Chief of Staff, on Wednesday 24 April. We will be discussing our refugee motion for the NSW ALP Conference. However, we are also keen to learn, what has happened since the last state conference two years ago, when our then refugee motion was adopted.  That motion was incorporated into the NSW Labor Platform. It committed to extending a range of services offered to migrants, to include refugees and people seeking asylum.  We would like to establish whether these services have been implemented.We hope you will join us at our meeting next Wednesday.**

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| **Regards****Nizza SianoSecretary L4R NSWemail:***contact@labor4refugees.com* |
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| *Copyright © 2024 Labor for Refugees (NSW), All rights reserved.*You are receiving this email because you indicated you wished to be active in L4R.**Our mailing address is:**Labor for Refugees (NSW)Bellevue HillSydney, NSW 2023Australia[Add us to your address book](https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/vcard?u=09c48b6cba9909c3558998ce0&id=3bbacc05ef) | Email Marketing Powered by Mailchimp |
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