

February 13 Refugee Action Coalition Media

“LET THEM STAY” Speakout NSW State Labor Conference, 13 Feb.

Solidarity with Lady Cilento Hospital

The Refugee Action Coalition is holding a speakout at 12.30 at Sydney Town Hall, Saturday 13 February to coincide with the NSW state Labor Conference.

Speakers include: Genevieve Kelly, NSW secretary National Tertiary Employees Union; Shane Prince, Labor for Refugees; and Teachers for Refugees.

The action by Lady Cilento Hospital in Brisbane refusing to release baby Asha until ‘a suitable home environment is identified’ has taken the campaign to “Let Them Stay” to a new level.

“The community campaign to Let Them Stay is growing day by day. State Labor premiers have shown the way. The stand by the Lady Cilento hospital is a high point of community and workers' opposition to any return of asylum seekers to Nauru or Manus Island.

“A clear stand by federal Labor can increase the pressure on the Turnbull government to make it impossible for the government to return any of the people from Manus and Nauru,” said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

The NSW Labor opposition leader has called on the Liberal Premier Mike Baird to fully support the call by Victorian Labor Premier Daniel Andrews for the Turnbull government to allow the 267 asylum seekers from Nauru and Manus Island to stay in Australia.

Three Labor state leaders and the ACT Chief Minister have now called on the Turnbull government to “Let Them Stay”. Tens of thousands have demonstrated, sat-in, held vigils and signed petitions addressed to the Turnbull government.

“But federal Labor needs to get the message too, like never before,” said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition. “Bill Shorten is at odds with the Labor premiers; at odds with the ACTU and at odds with growing community feeling.

“We want to urge the Labor conference to back Luke Foley’s call and to make

a clear call to Bill Shorten to back the stand of the Lady Cilento hospital workers and unequivocally call to 'Let Them Stay.'

"A clear stand from federal Labor would dramatically increase the pressure on the Turnbull government to do the right thing and let them stay. Keeping the 267 in Australia should be the first step to bringing all the asylum seekers and refugees from Nauru and Manus."

For more information call Ian Rintoul 0417 275 713