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SUB CONTINENT COMMUNITY PROMOTED AT THE ALP CONFERENCE

"At the recent conference of the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Labor Party the Sub Continent Friends of Labor had a pleasure and the privilege to be asked to host a fringe programme on any topic we wished" said Harish Velji the Chairperson of the Sub Continent Friends of Labor.

"We took this opportunity to promote the Sub Continent Community in Australia by selecting a topic that would best describe our contribution to Australia."

"We earlier in the day had members of our team Ejaz Khan, Moninder Singh, Nur Rahman and Prabhjot Sandhu met up with the Minister of Immigration Hon Chris Bowen and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Hon Tony Burke to discuss various topics that affect our community."

Mr Ejaz Khan said "As far as the Sub Continent community is concerned the parents of our community play very vital and important role in our daily lives."

"For that reason we impressed upon the Minister that changes be brought about to the parents visa system so that that one does not have to apply on a regular basis but be issued to cover a number of years with some caveats."

Former Secretary of United India Association Moninder Singh and a member of Sub Continent Friends of Labor said that it was important that the Federal Government look at the ways it can find to overcome the problems the international students who are here already find themselves as a result of the changes to the visa system introduced last year.

"Many students have spent large amounts of money to come here only to find the visa system being changed half way through."

"We appealed to the Minister for Immigration for a pathway for these students."

Prabajot Sandhu said that there has been a dramatic decline of the international students coming to Australia and that has affected lots of our community members who were genuine education providers.

"These education providers have invested lots of money."

"We urged the minister that ways and means is found to restore the confidence with international students so that the genuine local schools do survive these difficult times."

"We were highly impressed with Hon. Tony Burke as he listened to our views when we explained to him how our community holds dear to the mother earth, plants, air, sun etc.to on every day leaving" said Nur Rahman.

"We spoke about the importance of Carbon Emission Tax in relation to these issues."

Harish Velji the Chairperson of Sub Continent Friends of Labor said we appreciated the time given to our group by the Ministers and how seriously they took our views.

At least 80 people participated in the fringe program.

"According to many that our program on the contribution of the Sub Continent Community Australia was not only the best attended but most informative" said Harish Velji.

"We are thankful to Neville Roach OA, Dr Javed and Hon Nathan Rees who spoke on the subject and were informative."

"Neville Roach covered on the economic contribution of our people and Dr Javed impressed upon the audience how the medical system would not survive without our doctors."

"Nathan Rees who is regarded as 'one of us' by our community was also very well received."

"We did not expect the Leader of Opposition Hon John Robertson to be present but he made a surprise appearance and stayed for over an hour for the function."

"As NSW Opposition Leader, it was my great honour to join members of the Subcontinent Friends of Labor at the ALP State Conference fringe event" said Hon John Robertson.

"It was great to see so many familiar faces at the event and to see the Subcontinent Friends of Labor taking such an active role in debates and discussions over the weekend.

"As usual, Mr Roach and Dr Javed gave some excellent insights into the Indian Subcontinent community in NSW and I thank them and the organisers for such a wonderful event."

Federal Member for Greenway Michelle Rowland said " It was an absolute privilege to be able to MC this year's Sub Continent Friends of Labor fringe event, which explored the invaluable contribution of the Sub Continent community to the Australian way of life.

"As the Federal Member for Greenway, I am privileged to represent a very multicultural community, and I am extremely appreciative of the contribution that members of the Sub Continent community make to the overall strength of the electorate of Greenway."

"This fringe event reinforced the fantastic contribution of our Sub Continent friends across a range of fields and highlighted just how important the Sub Continent community is to the medical fraternity, to the economy and to the overall fabric of the Australian community."

"This year, for the first time ever, an important and invaluable part of the NSW State Conference was the fringe program hosted by the Subcontinent Friends of Labor group said Ed Husic Member for Chieflly

"The program provided a crucial insight into the contribution of the Subcontinent community to Australia, particularly across the economic, cultural, political and business landscapes."

"It identified the challenges and opportunities ahead as we work together to promote cultural cohesion and economic development within and beyond the Subcontinent communities."

"The Subcontinent Friends of Labor group has been tirelessly working to advance the party's aims, particularly during the last NSW State and Federal Elections."

"I congratulate the Subcontinent Friends of Labor group and look forward to working closely with them on our mutual interests, shared values and continued commitment to their communities, and the broader Australian society."





