




Speech By
Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 6 September 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Shamsalipoor, Ms M

 **Mr BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (10.40 pm): I spoke for justice in this place last year for Ms Mojgan Shamsalipoor, a graduate of Yeronga State High School and a victim of sexual abuse in her country of origin, Iran. After more than a year and a half in cruel and no doubt expensive detention from late 2014 in Australia for no logical reason, Mojgan was released and has been living for the last year freely in our community on a series of bridging visas and making herself an educated and valuable member of our community by studying and working.

It looked like her case was finally on track for her to be granted permission to permanently stay with her beloved husband, Milad Jafari, a permanent resident of our nation who is in the process of applying for citizenship. However, in yet another unfortunate and regrettable twist, instead of granting her residency and closing this long and indefensible case, the Turnbull government has changed direction once again and has informed Mojgan that she must leave Australia by 14 December.

The Yeronga State High School, the broader community and many Australians are horrified at the inhumane treatment of a valued and much loved member of our community. Ms Shamsalipoor works, receives an income, pays taxes, lives independently with her husband—who also works full-time as an assistant manager and pays taxes—is studying for a certificate III in child care on her pathway to her dream job of being a midwife and will apply for tertiary education.

To give the chamber a sense of the respect she has, Mojgan has been invited to open the Yeronga community peace garden this weekend by the local community. Mojgan simply wants to be able to apply to the minister to remain on shore until her application is decided as it is not safe for her to return to Iran given that she has been the victim of sexual abuse by a member of her family and others pretending to help her. Her horrific experiences have meant she risks arrest on return due to blame apportioned to her for crimes committed against her. This is a nation where a woman who returned was subjected to 40 lashes for the crime of wearing a short skirt at a social gathering. Her brother Hossein, who is working as a boilermaker and also pays taxes, is also seeking to stay in our nation as an important part of her family support and in his own right and deserves similar regard from Minister Dutton as the ultimate decision-maker.

I say to Minister Dutton: in the name of decency and compassion, grant Mojgan and Hossein the right to apply for permanent residency without being required to leave Australia and then deal with this case once and for all and allow them to permanently stay and continue to contribute, as they have now for many years. Iran will not accept involuntary returnees under mutual agreement with our federal government, so if Minister Dutton follows through on his edict for them to leave Australia they both face indefinite detention and imprisonment at the order of our own federal government. What a waste and injustice that would be. They cannot agree to return to where they will not be safe.

I sincerely say to Minister Dutton: drop any politics or perceived politics, re-examine this case closely, re-interview them and let Mojgan and Hossain stay permanently and confirm what our community in Yeronga already knows: they are one of us and one of our community.