Timeline: Case of baby Ferouz

Early November 2013

- Before he is born, Ferouz's family are brought from Nauru to Brisbane, due to concerns for his imminent birth
- Ferouz is born prematurely in Brisbane's Mater Hospital
- He was required to spend an extended period of time in hospital, where he was separated from his mother on repeated occasions while she was sent back to the detention centre
- Ferouz joins his family in detention in Brisbane, where they remain until April 2014
- His family are told by Immigration that they would be returned to Nauru at any time, despite ongoing concerns for the health of Ferouz and his mother

Late November 2013

- Maurice Blackburn seeks an undertaking from the Federal Government that they will not take Ferouz and his family to Nauru until he is afforded a fair hearing (eg by getting to present their own independent medical evidence on the likely impact of being taken to Nauru)
- The Government refuses to give such an undertaking, so Maurice Blackburn files legal proceedings, forcing the Government to provide an undertaking that Ferouz and his family will not be taken to Nauru without being given a fair hearing
- This result also set a standard in ensuring asylum seekers brought to Australia for medical treatment got a fair hearing before being returned offshore
- Referring to Ferouz's case, Aung Sun Suu Kyi called for Australia to show mercy when dealing with asylum seekers, including Rohingyans

Early December 2013

- Maurice Blackburn makes an application for a protection visa for Ferouz

Mid December 2013

- Maurice Blackburn lodges an application for citizenship for Ferouz

Late January 2014

- Ferouz's protection visa application is deemed invalid on the basis he is considered an Unauthorised Maritime Arrival

February 2014

- Maurice Blackburn files documents in the High Court challenging the decision to reject Ferouz's protection visa application, arguing that he is not an Unauthorised Maritime Arrival because he was born in Australia and did not arrive by boat

April 2014

- Ferouz's family are given one day's notice that they will be transferred to detention in Darwin, away from their medical, legal and personal support networks
- Maurice Blackburn makes an urgent application to the High Court to try and stop the transfer of Ferouz and his family to a detention centre in Darwin
- This application was unsuccessful, and the family were transferred to detention in Darwin, against their wishes
- The Federal Government assures the Court the family will have free and unfettered access to legal representation in Darwin

July 2014

- Foreign Minister Julie Bishop acknowledges the plight of the Rohingyans and also raises the need to protect the human rights of Rohingyans during a visit to Myanmar
- Maurice Blackburn calls on her to follow up these same concerns in Australia with Immigration Minister Scott Morrison on behalf of Rohingyans seeking protection in Australia, including Ferouz

July-August 2014

- Ferouz's family are repeatedly interviewed by Immigration officials without being given access to legal representation and are repeatedly and incorrectly told they will be taken to Nauru, regardless of the result of their legal action

September 2014

- Immigration Minister Scott Morrison introduces the 'Ferouz amendments' to the Migration Act that include retrospectively declaring all children born on Australian soil to families who arrived by boat to be Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals (meaning they retrospectively lose the right to apply for a protection visa and can be removed to Nauru)

October 2014

- Landmark hearing to test the argument as to whether Ferouz is an Unauthorised Maritime Arrival or whether he should be able to seek the protection of the Australian Government
- Fate of around 100 other babies born on Australian shores also rests on the Ferouz case, with the Government providing an undertaking not to transfer the babies until the Ferouz case is decided
- Maurice Blackburn launches a lobbying campaign to convince MPs and Senators to vote down the Ferouz amendments