



PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**VESAK DAY**

The traditional festival of Vesak is rich in symbolism and spiritual significance—a time for faith and community, a moment to welcome peace and happiness, and an opportunity to affirm one’s commitment to the Five Precepts.

Vesak is also a powerful reminder of the wonderful gift that Buddhism has brought to this nation, and how its particular values and insights—such as equality, respect and understanding—remain relevant to all Australians.

Our nation has been vastly enriched by faiths of every tradition, each contributing its own unique and special thread to the multicultural fabric of our society.

Australians are truly citizens of the world and our shared commitment to friendship, inclusion and peace is what lies at the heart of our success.

With these thoughts in mind, I hope that everyone observing the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha, is inspired and uplifted by these special celebrations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Turnbull'.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

26 April 2017