



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

**AUSTRALIAN OBSERVANCE OF THE
UNITED NATIONS VESAK DAY 2018**

I send my best wishes to everyone observing Vesak, the traditional celebration for the birth, enlightenment and passing of Gautama Buddha.

Rich in symbolism and spiritual significance, this is a time for Buddhists around the world to unite in faith and fellowship, to contemplate Buddha's teachings, and to reaffirm their commitment to the Five Precepts.

The Australian community wishes adherents well at this time of celebration, and acknowledges the special contribution that Buddhist traditions make to the multicultural fabric of our society.

The particular values and insights of Buddhism—such as equality, respect and understanding—not only inspire Buddhists from all walks of life, and of every nationality and background, but have meaning and relevance for all Australians.

We are fortunate to live in a nation where we are free to express our opinions and beliefs, where difference is celebrated as a strength and not a vulnerability. The shared commitment of all our citizens to friendship, inclusion and peace is what lies at the heart of our success.

With these thoughts in mind, I once again send my best wishes to everyone observing Vesak, and hope that everyone 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

19 April 2018