



**THE HON BILL SHORTEN MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG**

VESAK 2019

It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes to the Buddhist Federation of Australia and all its members on the festive occasion of Vesak.

Vesak commemorates the birth of Gautama Buddha, and his Enlightenment and final passage into Nirvana.

Over 500,000 Buddhists call Australia home, making a strong and long-lasting contribution to our diverse and vibrant multicultural nation.

As our Buddhist community unites in veneration of Buddha and his teachings during Vesak, may we all be inspired to pursue happiness, peace and equality for all people.

On behalf of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, I wish the Australian Buddhist community a joyous Vesak celebration with your family and loved ones.

Happy Vesak

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bill Shorten'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Bill Shorten
Leader of the Opposition**