



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

**INTERNATIONAL VESAK DAY**

On behalf of the Coalition, I send my best wishes to Australians of Buddhist faith as you observe International Vesak Day.

For Buddhists worldwide, this is a most sacred day with threefold significance. Vesak Day commemorates the birth of Lord Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha in 623 BC, the day when he attained enlightenment, and the day of his death in his eightieth year.

On this special occasion, Buddhists reflect on the teachings of the Lord Buddha. His messages of peace, compassion and wisdom are as relevant now as they were when he lived.

I commend the Buddhist Federation of Australia for organising the celebration of International Vesak Day. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by Buddhists around Australia.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank the more than 615,000 Australians of Buddhist faith for your contributions to your communities and our nation.

A very happy Vesak Day to the Buddhist Federation of Australia and Buddhists around our country. May this be a time of joy and spiritual renewal for you and your loved ones.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Dutton'.

**Hon Peter Dutton MP**  
Leader of the Opposition

May 2023