



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

VICTORIAN OBSERVANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DAY OF VESAK

I am pleased to provide this message on the occasion of Vesak.

Celebrating the birth, enlightenment and passing of Sakyamuni Buddha, this is an important time for the Buddhist community to come together in fellowship, and for the broader community to deepen their appreciation of Buddhist culture.

The Buddhist community, in all its diversity, has become an integral part of the Australian story.

Buddhism is Australia's second-most practiced religion. For many, it provides meaning, purpose and inspiration to their daily lives.

The five precepts of Buddhism: don't kill, don't steal, avoid dishonourable conduct, don't lie, and don't over-indulge, stand as a universal code of conduct that all people – regardless of our religion or culture – should strive towards.

At this time, we celebrate the contribution that the Buddhist community makes to Australia. I acknowledge your commitment to respect, compassion and understanding as taught by Buddha.

I send my best wishes to everyone attending this celebration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Abbott'.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of Australia

20 May 2015