



PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**VESAK 2016**

Each year Buddhists around the world gather to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and the passing of Sakyamuni Buddha.

This joyful celebration of Vesak is a time of renewal and re-dedication to one's faith—a chance to contemplate Buddha's teachings and his universal message of peace.

Vesak is also an opportunity to reflect on the history and achievements of Buddhism, which has played such a longstanding and respected role in Australian society.

The freedom to express and celebrate our differences is what makes us one of the most successful multicultural societies in the world.

As you gather for Vesak this year, I encourage everyone to be proud of an Australia where people of different beliefs and backgrounds can be part of our national tradition.

I send my best wishes to everyone observing Vesak, and hope you feel uplifted in your sense of faith and identity.

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

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

19 April 2016