



**THE HON BILL SHORTEN MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG**

**MESSAGE**

**BUDDHIST FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA**

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

Vesak is a major annual celebration in the Buddhist calendar. It commemorates the birth, enlightenment and the final passing into Nirvana, around 2600 years ago.

During the Vesak festivities, special efforts are made to bring happiness to the unfortunate like the aged and the sick. These are some of the values that are at the heart of your organisation.

You teach us that our differences are a strength, not a weakness, and remind us that when a community as diverse as ours comes together in a spirit of solidarity and partnership we are worth so much more than the sum of our parts.

I congratulate the Buddhist Federation of Australia on your unrelenting commitment to nurture the cultural and religious traditions of the Buddhist community in Australia.

On behalf of the Federal Labor Party, I wish you and your family's happiness, success, prosperity, good health, and I thank you for your outstanding contribution to Australia's social cohesion and community harmony.

**Bill Shorten  
Leader of the Opposition**