

### Message from Mayor Khal Asfour 2018 United Nations Vesak Day

I am delighted to provide this message of support for the Australian Observance of the 2018 United Nations Vesak Day Ceremony. On behalf of the City of Canterbury-Bankstown, I warmly welcome everyone attending.

Our City is a culturally rich community and, as Mayor, I understand the importance of celebrating and respecting days such as, Vesak, which is significant to many of our residents.

Buddhism is one of the fastest growing faiths in Australia and has helped establish the unity and harmony we enjoy today as one of the most multicultural and harmonious cities in Australia. I welcome this opportunity to commend you for the contributions you are making in Canterbury-Bankstown and in your respective communities as faithful, devoted Buddhists.

This year's Vesak celebration theme, ***The Spirit of Generosity***, encourages each one of us, regardless of race, faith and cultural differences, to live a meaningful life, loving and respecting all people in line with our common values, as well as, Buddha's teachings. These principles serve as wonderful guides to building strong families and ethical, prosperous communities.

With this in mind, the Australian Observance of the United Nations Day of Vesak is an increasingly important celebration in the cultural life of our nation. I trust the event will be memorable for everyone involved and hope you find time to explore the City of Canterbury Bankstown to enjoy what it has to offer.

Yours sincerely



Clr Khal Asfour  
Mayor

