



**TED O'BRIEN MP**  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MEMBER FOR FAIRFAX

**JULIAN LEESER MP**  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS  
MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REZA PAHLAVI ACCEPTS COALITION INVITE TO VISIT AUSTRALIA**

The Coalition has welcomed prominent Iranian opposition figure and former Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi's acceptance of its invitation to visit Australia, following significant calls for greater engagement from Australia's Iranian diaspora.

As the next step, senior Coalition MPs and Senators will meet virtually with Mr Pahlavi in coming weeks to discuss the situation in Iran, the aspirations of the Iranian people and his advocacy for a democratic transition to a secular Iran.

Mr Pahlavi will then visit Australia in due course at the invitation of the Coalition, with further details to be announced in coming months.

Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Ted O'Brien said the Coalition was responding to Iranian-Australians who want their voices heard.

"For decades, the Iranian people have suffered under a brutal terrorist regime that represses its own citizens, exports terror abroad and denies its people basic freedoms."

"Many Iranian-Australians look to Mr Pahlavi as an important voice of hope for a different future and the Coalition believes those calls for engagement deserve to be heard."

Mr Pahlavi has advocated for a democratic transition to a secular Iran based on human rights, equality and freedom for people of every faith and background.

Mr O'Brien said engagement with Mr Pahlavi did not amount to Australia choosing Iran's future leadership.

“Iran’s future belongs to the Iranian people. It is not for Australia to determine who should lead Iran or what form its future government should take.”

“But we should be prepared to listen to credible voices advocating for a peaceful and democratic alternative to the regime in Tehran.”

Shadow Minister for Education, Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians and Federal Member for Berowra Julian Leeser said there had been enormous interest from the Iranian-Australian community in Mr Pahlavi visiting Australia.

“Thousands of Persian Australians have signed our petition to bring Reza Pahlavi to Australia.” Mr Leeser said.

“As the representative of the third largest Persian community in Australia I know my community is keen for me to hear directly from Reza Pahlavi about the situation in Iran and his hopes for the future.”

Mr O’Brien said engagement with Iranian-Australians formed part of the Coalition’s broader engagement with diaspora communities, recognising that Australians should feel safe and respected regardless of conflict or instability in their country of origin.

“Strong social cohesion and national unity at home provide an important foundation for how Australia engages with the world, which is another reason Mr Pahlavi’s visit will be so significant.”

“The Coalition looks forward to welcoming Mr Pahlavi to Australia and supporting opportunities for him to engage with parliamentarians from across the political spectrum at Australian Parliament House, as well as members of the Iranian-Australian community across the country.”

The virtual meeting is being organised by Mr O’Brien and Mr Pahlavi and is expected to take place in the coming weeks, ahead of Mr Pahlavi’s visit to Australia.

**ENDS**

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