



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

Australian National Anthem

The Australian National Anthem, proclaimed in 1984, identifies Australia at home and overseas. It unites the nation and is a public expression of joy and pride in being Australian.

The Australian National Anthem is used at important public ceremonies, sporting and community events.

Australian National Anthem words

The words for the first verse of the Australian National Anthem are:

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts;
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*

History of the Australian National Anthem

In 1973 a competition was held for a distinctively Australian national anthem. The Australian National Anthem Quest was run in two stages by the Australia Council for the Arts.

The first stage for lyrics attracted more than 1400 entries. The second stage for music received 1200 entries. A prize of \$5,000 was offered for each stage.

The judges decided the entries did not meet the high standards of Australia's traditional songs 'Advance Australia Fair', 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'Song of Australia'.

The Australia Council for the Arts recommended the final choice for the national anthem should be made from these three songs. The Bureau of Statistics ran a national poll of 60 000 people. 'Advance Australia Fair' was favoured by 51.4 per cent of the people followed by 'Waltzing Matilda' (19.6 per cent).

The original composition of 'Advance Australia Fair' was written by Peter Dodds McCormack in 1878 and consisted of four verses.

In 1974 'Advance Australia Fair' was adopted as the Australian National Anthem; however in 1976 'God Save The Queen' was reinstated.



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In 1977 the Australian Electoral Office conducted a poll for the national anthem tune in conjunction with a referendum. The tune 'Advance Australia Fair' was the preferred option. In 1981 the National Australia Day Council recommended that the Australian National Anthem consist of two verses of 'Advance Australia Fair' with some modification.

Proclamation

The Australian National Anthem, consisting of the tune of 'Advance Australia Fair' and the verses as drafted by the National Australia Day Council, was proclaimed on 19 April 1984 by the then Governor-General, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian M Stephen KG AK GCMG GCVO KBE .

Fast facts

ANTHEM NAME:

Australian National Anthem

PROCLAIMED:

19 April 1984

USE OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM:

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