



Australian National Anthem

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one 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*

*Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands,
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands,
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share,
With courage let us all combine
To advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia fair.*



Australia Day
Council of
Western Australia



Australian National Anthem – History

In 1973 the Australia Council for the Arts held the Australian National Anthem Quest competition to find the lyrics and music for a new Australian national anthem.

The competition received more than 1400 entries for lyrics and 1200 entries for music, but 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'. As a result, 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 then ran a national poll of 60 000 people, which found 'Advance Australia Fair' written by Peter Dodds McCormick in 1878 (originally four verses long) was favoured by the majority of people.

In 1974 'Advance Australia Fair' was adopted as the Australian National Anthem, but in 1976 'God Save The Queen' was reinstated for royal, vice-regal, defence and loyal toast occasions. In 1977 the Australian Electoral Office conducted another poll, which again found 'Advance Australia Fair' was the preferred anthem.

In 1981 the National Australia Day Council recommended the Australian National Anthem consist of verses one and two of 'Advance Australia Fair' with some modification to the first line changing the words *Australia's sons* to *Australians all* making it more inclusive.

On 19 April 1984 the then Governor-General, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen KG AK GCMG GCVO KBE, proclaimed the National Anthem as the tune of 'Advance Australia Fair' and the verses proposed by the National Australia Day Council.

From 1 January 2021, the words of the second line of the Australian National Anthem were amended by Proclamation made by the Governor General, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), on the Government's advice from *For we are young and free*, to *For we are one and free*, in the spirit of unity and to recognise our ancient history.