

12 April 1973



PRIME MINISTER

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM QUEST

On 26 January the Prime Minister announced that the public would be invited to submit entries for the words and music for a new national anthem and that the Australian people would be consulted in the final choice.

As the first stage of this contest, entries are now invited for the words of an anthem. These entries will close on 31 May. Entries may be written without any tune in mind or to the tune of one of the familiar songs which have some claim to being accepted as a national anthem. A selection of texts from among those submitted will be made by a panel of judges and published in a booklet. This will be available to all interested people from the beginning of July.

Members of the public will then be invited to submit the music and words for an anthem. The music may be set to words written by the composer himself or by a collaborator. If the composer prefers his music may be set to one of the texts chosen for the booklet. Details of this second stage of the contest - the calling and judging of music entries - will be announced early in July.

It is anticipated that a panel of judges will choose six or more anthems, from which the public will help make a final choice on or before 26 January 1974. Among these six anthems will be at least two familiar or traditional songs. The Australian Council for the Arts, in consultation with the Australian Government, representatives of the media, the A.B.C. and other interested organisations, will determine the method by which the public's preference will be expressed.

An award of \$5,000 will be made to the writer of the words chosen for the national anthem. A similar award will be made to the composer of the music of the anthem, unless the music is that of an already familiar song. Awards of \$500 will be made for the words and for the music of any entry selected for the public's consideration.

Entry forms and details of the conditions of entry may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Australian National Anthem Quest,
Australian Council for the Arts,
P.O. Box 372,
NORTH SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2060

A number of people have already submitted entries in consequence of the Prime Minister's announcement of 26 January. Those who entries have been received by the Australian Council for the Arts will be sent entry forms.