



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 110

4 July 1973

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, in Perth today issued the following statement on the selected entries for the National Anthem Quest:

"With a National Anthem it is the music which really matters. We are still waiting to hear from our composers.

"Composers are not obliged to use any of the six sets of words chosen from those submitted by the public. They can write their own words if they wish or collaborate with any writer.

"The Government is not imposing any anthem on the people. The public will be consulted in the final choice. If they decide, for instance, they want Waltzing Matilda or Advance Australia Fair, then of course we shall have it.

"Opinion polls have shown clearly that the Australian people want a true Australian anthem. Our aim has been to give all Australians - whether they can compose music or not - a chance to participate in writing an anthem. Their interest has been tremendous, and I thank all those who have taken part so far."

Mr Whitlam recalled that when last in Perth on 26 January to open the Perth Concert Hall, he announced the national anthem quest. Today, on his return to Perth, he was happy to report on its progress.

CANBERRA