



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 141

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NATIONAL ANTHEM POLL PLANS

The Bureau of Census and Statistics, at the request of the Government, is planning a nation-wide opinion poll to establish preferences for a new National Anthem.

The poll will be conducted in February next year and people will be asked to make their choice from the three songs already selected by the National Anthem Committee. These are: Advance Australia Fair, Song of Australia, and Waltzing Matilda.

Results of the poll will be used by the Government to make a final decision on the anthem.

A cross-section of the community, aged 18 and over, throughout Australia will be covered.

The poll is being organised by the Bureau of Census and Statistics as part of its NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY. The Bureau's responsibilities include many Australia-wide household surveys such as the quarterly surveys of employment and the major surveys recently completed on migrants and on income. These surveys provide valuable information upon which the policies of the Government and other organisations can be based.

All surveys are based on scientifically selected samples of up to 60,000 people in all walks of life.

The National Anthem poll will be an extension of this continuing NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY programme. While giving an accurate measure of opinion the costs involved are minimal compared with those for a national referendum.

All surveys conducted by the NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY are preceded by a small pilot test to ensure that the survey procedures are efficiently designed. A pilot test for the National Anthem poll will be conducted during November.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.