



## PRIME MINISTER

### TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH - NATIONAL AUSTRALIA DAY CONCERT - 29/1/85

PM: Ladies and Gentlemen, whatever the measure of greatness of our nation, and I believe it is very considerable indeed, it arises because through the years we have absorbed the best that has been brought here from many countries of the world by the men and women who have come to make this their home and because we have fashioned ourselves, our attitudes, and our institutions in a distinctive way which reflects the realities of our continent.

While I think we can not always extoll everything in our past, we have repudiated the concept of proprietorship for those who inhabited this land before European settlement, while at the same time subsequently often being less than generous in sharing this land of ours with those who have come here.

But nevertheless, we have on this national day very considerable reasons to smile. We should indeed be very grateful to all those who have gone before us for so having conducted themselves that we can this day in 1985 truly assert that Australia is one of the few really vibrant democracies in the world where the commitment to the liberty and the freedom of expression of the individual is sadly diminishing.

We are also as a nation of less than 16 million people in a world of 4.8 billion entitled indeed to be proud of the many contributions that Australian men and women have made in the fields of art, music, letters, architecture, sport - indeed a remarkable contribution.

So while this is a time of remembrance and a time for gratitude for those who have gone before, a time to balance pride with considerations of the past, and also, I believe, a time when we have to contemplate the challenges of the present and of the future. Particularly I think that is true as this 1985 is International Youth Year.

There are many of our young people today in Australia who have reasoned cause to doubt our commitment to giving them a sense of security and fulfillment in the Australian future.

This is a great country with its unlimited resources, I believe, and we have the capacity to make that commitment to them, to make it real.

So I would ask, as Prime Minister of Australia, that today on our national day we should all pledge ourselves to making that commitment a reality in the future so that their aspirations shall be met and that in the years ahead they shall have equal cause with us for pride in this great country.

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