



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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A major figure in Australian literature for more than three decades, Patrick White, leaves behind him a legacy of novels and plays that have helped to define the modern Australian identity.

It is no secret that as an uncompromising and frank commentator on a wide range of contemporary social issues, Patrick White was at times a sharp critic of this Government. Of course in this we were not Robinson Crusoe. He sought a more humane and thoughtful world - a quest that led him to see serious flaws all around him, and not least in himself. But we can all take pride in the fact that his great talents as an author were recognised in 1973 when he became the first and only Australian to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

With Patrick White, Australian writing expanded in scope, in depth and in richness, and his achievements must be an inspiration to younger Australian writers.