

**Before 1788** No national anthem exists. Separate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups each have their own special songs.

**1788** ‘God Save the Queen’ or ‘God Save the King’ from England is the national anthem.

**1973** The Prime Minister announces a competition for an Australian national anthem. Prizes of \$5,000 are offered for the lyrics (words) and \$5,000 for the music. Of the 1,650 entries received, none is considered exactly right. The judges, from the Australia Council for the Arts, recommend that one of Australia’s popular songs: ‘Advance Australia Fair’, ‘Song of Australia’ or ‘Waltzing Matilda’, should be chosen as the national anthem.

**1974** The Australian Bureau of Statistics holds a national survey of 60,000 people. (People are asked to choose one song.) ‘Advance Australia Fair’ is chosen.

**1977** A national poll is held. Australians vote for a new national song. The results are:

‘Advance Australia Fair’	2,940,854 votes
‘Waltzing Matilda’	1,918,206 votes
‘God Save the Queen’	1,257,341 votes
‘Song of Australia’	652,858 votes

**1978** ‘Advance Australia Fair’ is announced as the people’s choice for a national tune (without the words).

**1984** Prime Minister Bob Hawke announces that the first and third verses of the original ‘Advance Australia Fair’, with some changes, will be the national anthem. (The changes are made by the National Australia Day Committee in order to remove old-fashioned and sexist words.)

**1985** The Governor-General announces that, when members of the royal family are present, ‘God Save the Queen’ will be played at the beginning of an event and ‘Advance Australia Fair’ at the end.