



The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP

Leader of the Opposition

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY

It is so fitting that our national flag was born out of a competition – and a very popular competition, at that. Australia's population was barely more than three-and-a-half million, and yet nearly 33,000 entries came pouring in.

Just as fittingly, it was a win spread across five people who represented something of a cross section of the nation: a school student, an apprentice optician, an architect, an artist and a naval officer. The result of their efforts is the only flag to fly across an entire continent.

We are mature enough as a nation to be able to take pride in our flag while acknowledging that the situation is not so straightforward for many First Nations people.

Nevertheless, it is a flag that represents hope. Just as it reminds us of all we have achieved as Australians, even when the odds against us seemed overwhelming. If there's a message we need to hear loudly and clearly in the second year of pandemic, this is it.

As we once again mark National Flag Day in deeply challenging circumstances, let us take the hope that our flag embodies and use it to shape a better future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Albanese'.

Anthony Albanese
Leader of the Australian Labor Party