



PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY**

The way our national flag was born was as true to the Australian character as you could have expected: a design competition that attracted nearly 33,000 entries at a time when Australia's population was barely more than three-and-a-half million. Not so much a groundswell of enthusiasm as a great wave.

It was also an expression of the voice and energy of a people. The competition victory was spread across five entrants: a school student, an apprentice optician, an architect, an artist, and a naval officer. The result of this great collective effort is the flag that flies across our continent.

As we mark 121 years of our national flag, we have the maturity as a nation and a people to take pride in it, while at the same time acknowledging that it is not so straightforward for many First Nations people.

Our flag reminds us of all we have achieved as Australians, sometimes against the odds. It has been there in our good times and bad, through the sorrows and the triumphs. As we look to the better post-pandemic future that is within our reach, let us be inspired and energised by the hope that our flag embodies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Anthony Albanese'.

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

3 September 2022