



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SYDNEY

Message from  
**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC**  
**Governor of New South Wales**

A nation's flag is a symbol of its peoples and its nationhood. For the newly federated Commonwealth of Australia, it was a proud day when, on 3 September 1901, the Australian flag was raised above the Melbourne Exhibition Building, the first home of the new Australian Parliament.

Looking to the people for inspiration, Australia's first Prime Minister Sir Edmund Barton had announced a competition for its design. The response was enthusiastic, with 32,823 entries being received. The £200 prize money was ultimately shared among the creators of five nearly identical designs.

Since that first historic occasion, the Australian flag has flown over our National Parliament, Government Houses, and State Parliaments. It has given strength of purpose to our defence personnel on and off the battlefield as they have served our nation. It has been raised proudly at ceremonial occasions when Australians have been honoured. It has taken pride of place as our Olympians and Paralympians have lifted their medals up high for the world to see. It is flown across the nation for us to see.

During the citizenship ceremonies I am honoured to attend each year, our national flag is front and centre as conferees pledge their loyalty to Australia and its people.

In 1995, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag were proclaimed as flags of Australia honouring First Nations Australians' unique, continuous history extending back 65,000 years.

On this 124<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our National Flag, I convey best wishes to the Australian National Flag Association (NSW) and to all Australians.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC**  
**Governor of New South Wales**