MENZIES SPEECH COMPETITION 2027 RESOURCES

Robert Menzies INSTITUTE

"National pride is deeply founded on a sense of history, of self-respect, of achievement" - Sir Robert Menzies

Topic: How should Australia's democratic history shape its future?

You must refer to Robert Menzies's influence and perspective on Australia's democracy.

The purpose of this document is to provide links to useful resources that you may wish to reference in your speech regarding Robert Menzies's role in Australian democratic history.

- Menzies's Speech at the laying of the foundation stone of the National Library of Australia, 31 March 1966 *listen from 23 minutes onwards* (Source: NLA)

Excerpts from "Australia Today - Man to Man" *THE ANZAC WEEK*, 23 April 1958 (Source: NLA):

'National pride is deeply founded on a sense of history, of self-respect, of achievement. The nations which have contributed most to the history of the improvement of mankind have been those in which a sense of national unity was predominant.'

'Nationhood means a sense of common responsibility. It is one of the great things about democracy that the Government is ourselves and that what the Government has to provide for citizens must first of all be provided for the Government by the citizens. This is the inexorable democratic law. There is really no such thing as something for nothing. What is provided for the total of our people must be supplied in greater of lesser individual degree by the total of our people. So regarded, a democratic nationhood is a state of affairs in which a sense of social responsibility has become paramount.'

Extension resources:

- '*The Nature of Democracy*' *Forgotten People Broadcast*
- '*The Sickness of Democracy*' *Forgotten People Broadcast*
- '*The Achievements of Democracy*' *Forgotten People Broadcast*
- '*The Task of Democracy*' *Forgotten People Broadcast*