

TOTOLAK ALDOMS, AUSTRALIA

- 4. Gold: Greatest Hits (1992) by Swedish rock group ABBA
- 5. *Thriller* (1982) by American vocalist, songwriter, and performer Michael Jackson (1958–2009)
- 6. The Best of ABBA (1975) by ABBA
- 7. Come On Over (1997) by Canadian Shania Twain
- 8. Innocent Eyes (2003) by Australian singer-songwriter and actor Delta Goodrem
- 9. Greatest Hits (1982) by British rock group Queen, with 1,050,000 copies sold
- 10. Sharing 10th place with over 980,000 units sold in Australia are four albums: The Dark Side of the Moon (1973) by British band Pink Floyd, Grease: The Original Soundtrack from the Motion Picture (1978) by various artists, Jagged Little Pill (1995) by Canadian Alanis Morissette, and 21 (2011) by British singer-songwriter Adele

Triple J's Hottest

Hailed as the world's largest "musical democracy," the Hottest 100 is a music poll that has been run by Triple J, the youth arm of federally funded Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), since 1989. The poll began as a list of listeners' all-time favorite songs, but, realizing that these were unlikely to shift significantly each year, the station relaunched the poll in 1993 to count down the favorite songs of that calendar year only. The annual countdown is held on Australia Day (January 26) each year. Since the 1990s, Hottest 100 parties have become part of the national tradition for many young Australians. The poll provides the soundtrack and the momentum for these parties.

Although the countdown features songs from around the world, its coincidence with one of Australia's national holidays—together with the fact that it is run by the national broadcaster, which has a specific charter to promote Australian identity and culture—results in fervor for and promotion of Australian artists who succeed in placing in the poll. Between 1993 and 2014, 11 Australian artists have won the No. 1 spot. The first Australian song to win was Spiderbait's "Buy Me a Pony" in 1996; the most recent was Chet Faker's "Talk Is Cheap" in 2014.

Triple J's musical programming focuses on predominantly "alternative" or independent musicians rather than mainstream pop artists, which results in a hit list very different to mainstream charts for pop music. This programming has also led to allegations of "hipsterism" and musical snobbery as well as criticisms against the poll's lack of gender diversity. In January 2015, a social media campaign to win American pop artist Taylor Swift a place in the Hottest 100 for 2014 was launched by a humorous article on global media site BuzzFeed, despite the fact that her music had never received airtime on Triple J. Swift's hit pop song "Shake It Off" was ultimately disqualified. In an official statement, Triple J praised Swift's music and successful career but highlighted that her entry—which researchers projected would reach the No. 12 slot—would have ousted a local independent artist and would not have accurately represented the station's hits and thus would not be in the spirit of the poll.

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