



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

Companion of the Order of Australia

In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service.

The Companion of the Order of Australia is awarded for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or humanity at large.

Recipients of the Order of Australia are from many fields of endeavour and all walks of life.

About the award

The Order of Australia has four levels:

- Companion of the Order (AC)
- Officer of the Order (AO)
- Member of the Order (AM), and
- Medal of the Order (OAM).

How it is awarded

The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens.

Nominations to the Order of Australia come directly from the community: either individuals or groups.

Once a nomination has been submitted the Australian Honours Secretariat at Government House in Canberra conducts further research and contacts referees.

The Council of the Order of Australia then considers the nominations. The Council makes its recommendations, independent of government, direct to the Governor-General.

Awards in the Order of Australia are publicly announced on Australia Day (26 January) and the Queen's Birthday public holiday (June).

Past recipient story

Dr Jean Calder AC was appointed a Companion in the Order of Australia in 2005. She was recognised for inspirational humanitarian service in the Middle East, leadership and commitment to international relations and academic and professional training in rehabilitation.



The Companion of the Order of Australia is a badge with a gold insignia of the Order in the centre

Medal design

The Companion of the Order of Australia is a badge with a gold insignia of the Order in the centre. The central insignia is circled with blue enamel edged in gold with citrines and is inscribed with the word 'Australia'. The circle also contains two gold sprigs of mimosa. The insignia is ensigned with the Crown of St Edward.

Fast facts

POST NOMINAL:

AC

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1975

NOMINATIONS:

For more information or a nomination form for the Order of Australia contact:

The Secretary
Order of Australia
Government House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Ph: 1800 552 275

More information

IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: www.itsanhonour.gov.au