



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

Cross of Valour

The Cross of Valour is awarded for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril.

It is the highest Australian Bravery Decoration.

About the award

Australian Bravery Decorations date from the establishment of the Australian honours system in February 1975. The Group Bravery Citation was added in 1990.

The decorations recognise acts of bravery by members of the community. They selflessly put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

There are four levels of awards for individuals:

- Cross of Valour (CV)
- Star of Courage (SC)
- Bravery Medal (BM)
- Commendation for Brave Conduct

There is also the Group Bravery Citation, an award for a group of people involved in a single incident.

How it is awarded

Anyone may nominate any other person for a bravery decoration. The nomination may be for a brave act by an Australian citizen in Australia or overseas.

A citizen of another country carrying out a brave act in the interest of Australia may also be nominated.

Australian Bravery Decorations may be made posthumously.

Nominations are considered by the Australian Bravery Decorations Council, which makes recommendations to the Governor-General. The Council also recommends the level of awards.

There is no set timeframe for announcing bravery awards. Generally there are two each year in April and August.

Past recipient story

Mr Darrell James Tree of Wudinna, South Australia was awarded the first Cross of Valour in 1989. Despite repeatedly falling unconscious from electrocution he saved a three year-old boy from a crane charged with high voltage electricity.



Medal design

The Cross of Valour is a gold, straight-armed cross with diminishing rays between the arms. It is ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The obverse has the shield and crest of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms surmounted by a Federation Star. A suspender bar is engraved with the words For Valour.

Medal ribbon

The ribbon is magenta with a central blood-red band

Fast facts

POST NOMINAL:

CV

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1975

AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATION NOMINATIONS:

For more information on making a nomination contact:

Honours Secretariat
Government House
Canberra, ACT 2600
Ph: 1800 552 275

More information

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