



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

## Distinguished Service Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded for distinguished command and leadership in action.

It is the highest distinguished service decoration.

### About the award

The Distinguished Service Decorations recognise command and leadership in military action. They are awarded primarily to members of the Australian Defence Forces.

The Distinguished Service Decorations were introduced in 1991 and replaced a number of Imperial decorations.

There are three levels of decoration:

- Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)
- Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), and
- Commendation for Distinguished Service.

### How it is awarded

The Distinguished Service Cross are awarded by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence.

If the same person receives a further Distinguished Service Cross it is in the form of a nickel-silver bar. The bar is attached to the ribbon of the original award.

The decoration may be awarded posthumously.

The award is announced on Australia Day (January 26) and the Queen's Birthday (June) each year.

### Medal design

The Distinguished Service Cross is a modified Maltese Cross of nickel-silver ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The obverse bears a Federation Star surmounted on a disc of flames.



### Medal ribbon

The medal has a nickel-silver suspender bar. The medal ribbon has a central ochre-red stripe flanked by narrower silver-blue stripes

Fast facts

POST NOMINAL:

DSC

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1991

### More information

IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE: [www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)