



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

## Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal honours members of eligible Australian groups for humanitarian service overseas in hazardous circumstances.

### About the award

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal is a way for Australians to recognise members of Australian groups, such as CARE Australia, who do humanitarian work in dangerous overseas settings.

Situations may include service in war zones and during peacekeeping operations.

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal was established on 16 April 1999 by letters patent.

The medal was extended in 2005 to enable recognition of the humanitarian services provided to countries that were affected by the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and earthquake on Nias Island in March 2005.

### How it is awarded

Applications for the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal come directly from the community: either individuals or groups.

Applications are considered by the Governor-General, who then makes the awards.

Only one medal can be awarded to an individual. Further awards are in the form of a clasp.

The following clasps have been declared: Afghanistan, Balkans, Cambodia, East Timor, Great Lakes (Africa), Iraq, Mozambique, Northern Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, South Vietnam, the Indian Ocean and Pakistan.

### Past recipient story

In 2004 Mr Scott Rankin received an award for his work in helping to rebuild war-shattered communities in Cambodia. Landmines and kidnappings were just two of the risks Mr Rankin faced as manager of an AusAID-funded project, 'Rebuilding Local Communities in Battambang Province'.

### Medal design

The Australian eucalyptus tree is the central symbol of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal. The branches spread from the Australian land at the base of the medal to the world, which is represented by a



a circle. A ring of gum nuts surrounds the circle symbolising hope and life after disaster.

The back of the medal repeats the ring of gum nuts, and details the award and recipient.

The medal was designed by Balarinji of Sydney.

### Medal ribbon

The colours of the ribbon are gold and eucalyptus green.

Fast facts

POST NOMINAL:

Recipients are not entitled to post-nominals.

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1999

APPLICATIONS:

For more information on applying for the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal contact:

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### More information

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