



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

National Medal

The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised organisations that help the community during times of crisis.

It is Australia's most awarded civilian medal.

About the award

The National Medal was established in 1975 as one of the first three elements of the Australian honours system.

When the medal was first introduced it recognised 15 years of diligent service by members of the Defence Force, Australian police forces, and fire and ambulance services.

Eligibility for the National Medal progressively changed. It now includes government organisations such as ambulance, correctional, emergency, fire and police forces, and voluntary organisations such as lifesaving or search and rescue groups.

New regulations were formally introduced on 18 June 1999 by Letters Patent.

How it is awarded

The Governor-General awards the National Medal. Nominations are made by the chief officer of the nominee's organisation. The chief officer also administers the medal.

The award recognises long service in eligible organisations that protect life and property at some risk to their members.

Many, but not all, eligible groups are uniformed. Fifteen years' service is required to qualify. Clasps are available for each additional ten years' service.

Past recipient story

Mrs Jan Petterd was awarded the National Medal in March 2001 for her service to Risdon Women's Prison in Tasmania. During her 27 years at the prison, Mrs Petterd played an important role in developing a more inclusive, supportive service for inmates.

Medal design

The National Medal is a circular bronze medal ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The front of the medal features the Commonwealth Coat of Arms



in a recessed circle. The rim of the medal carries the inscription 'The National Medal'.

The back of the medal is plain.

The medal was designed by Mr Stuart Devlin AO CMG.

Medal ribbon

The 32 millimetre-wide ribbon features 15 alternating gold and blue vertical stripes.

Fast facts

POST NOMINAL:

Recipients are not entitled to post-nominals

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1975 (revised 1999)

NOMINATIONS:

Made by the chief officer of an approved organisation. If you consider you are eligible for the National Medal contact your chief officer. For more information on the nomination process contact:

Operations Section
Awards and Culture Branch
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More information

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