



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

## Officer of the Order of Australia

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

The Officer of the Order of Australia is awarded for distinguished service of a high degree 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)
- 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 Honours secretariat at Government House in Canberra conducts further research and contacts referees.

The Council for 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

Broadcaster Geraldine Doogue AO was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2003 for distinguished service to the community and to the media on issues involving ethics, values, religion and social change.



### Medal design

The Officer of the Order of Australia is a badge with a gold-plated silver insignia of the Order in the centre. The central insignia is circled with blue enamel edged in gold 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:

AO

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](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au)