



NSW Police Force

NSW Police Force Medals and Awards Guide



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Introduction

Honours and Awards have been introduced over time at both State and Federal level to acknowledge the outstanding performance of police.

This manual has been developed as a guide to understanding the various honours and awards available, provide guidance in preparation, clearly explain the required criteria and outline the approval procedure and presentation format.

The order the awards as presented in this document are not in order of wearing precedence but highlight the general order of precedence within the NSW Police Force.

Nomination procedure:

Nominations for medals and citations differs between organisations

All nominations for the National Police Service Medal, The National Medal for Service and The New South Wales Police Medal for Diligent Service are initiated by internal police systems.

Retired NSW Police Force sworn officers who disengaged before certain dates (and under certain circumstances, next of kin of deceased retired NSW Police Force sworn officers) are encouraged to apply for the National Police Service Medal and NSW Police Medal via the application forms located on the NSW Police Force internet page at the following address:

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/about_us/awards

New South Wales Police Commissioner's awards are by way of nomination through the Protocol and Awards Unit, Office of the Commissioner.

Australian Honours and Awards are administered by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, Government House, Canberra. Nominations for these awards can be found on the [itsanhonour](https://itsanhonour.gov.au) website.

Before nominations are processed, they are assessed accordingly, which includes conduct checks within the NSW Police Force and external agencies.

A presentation criterion exists for every individual award and this criterion can be found with the information listed for each award in this Manual.

Index of Honour and Awards

New South Wales Police Awards:

New South Wales Police Diligent and Ethical Service Medal

New South Wales Police Commissioner's Valour (VA)

New South Wales Police Commissioner's Commendation for Courage

New South Wales Police Commissioner's Commendation for Service

New South Wales Police Commissioner's Certificate of Merit

New South Wales Police Commissioner's Olympic Commendation

New South Wales Police Commissioner's Commendation for Community Service

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NSW Premier's Bushfire Citation

Canterbury (NZ) Earthquake Citation

Queensland Cyclone Citation (2010-2011)

Queensland G20 Citation

XXI Commonwealth Games (QLD) Citation

Australian Capital Territory Emergency Medal

NSW Police Force Awards



NEW SOUTH POLICE DILIGENT AND ETHICAL SERVICE MEDAL ("Police Medal").

History

The New South Wales Police medal was introduced on the 5th of February 2002. The medal recognizes ten years eligible service; clasps are awarded for each additional five-year period.

A clasp on the medal and a rosette on the ribbon depicts the years of service. The medal is an internal NSW Police award.

A ribbon bar is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

This is a right-side decoration.

Design

The medal is made of copper with nickel silver finish medal is 38 millimetres in diameter and portrays the Australian Wedgetail Eagle with the Nemesis Scroll and the NSW State Badge surrounded by the inscription "NSW Police – Diligent and Ethical Service the reverse has provision for the name of the awardee.

Eligibility Criteria

Awarded to sworn police officers for 10 years diligent and ethical service.

Clasps are awarded for each 5 years of service, 5mm wide, with the number of years of service depicted in the centre of as circle.

Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The presentation should be made by:

- NSW Minister of Police (or their nominated representative)
- Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONERS VALOUR AWARD

History

Instituted in 1987, by Statute, awarded to police where there has been exceptional bravery in a life-threatening situation with a clear significant risk to life.

This is a right-side decoration

Design

The Commissioner's Valour Award comprises an ornamental 38mm cross of sterling silver with 22mm diameter medallion centrally located depicting the Australian Wedgetail Eagle, Nemesis Scroll and the New South Wales State Badge and embellished with dark and mid blue enamel on its highlighted and shaded features.

The ribbon 38 millimetres wide, bearing the colours dark blue, mid blue and white.

The medallion is to bear the words "NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE FOR BRAVERY".

Subsequent Bars to the Commissioner's Valour Awards are to be represented on the back of the lapel pin by a metal blue disc of 15 millimetres diameter.

A ribbon bar is worn on the day to day uniform, a miniature is worn on evening wear.

A miniature of the medallion, measuring 12mm, is worn as a lapel badge on business attire.

Citation

The medal is accompanied by a citation stating the circumstances surrounding the award.

Eligibility Criteria

If while on police operational duty a police officer or a special constable performs an act of conspicuous merit involving exceptional bravery, the Commissioner may grant to the officer the Commissioner's Valour Award.

The recipient is entitled to use the post nominal "VA". See *Police Officer Only Police Regulations 2015 Div 13 Sect 61*

The award may be conferred posthumously.

Presentation

This award is presented at an attestation parade or a specially organised presentation ceremony.

The award should be presented by:

The Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)



NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONERS COMMENDATION FOR COURAGE

History

Instituted in 1965 as an Award Certificate signed by the Commissioner and complemented by the current drop-ribbon set in 1992.

A 2nd, 3rd and 4th Commendation may be presented by way of a bronze clasp added to the original award. After a maximum of 3 clasps (4 awards) are added only a certificate is awarded to the officer and an entry is made on the officer's personnel record.

This is a right-side decoration.

Design

A drop ribbon and emblem on blue 32mm wide and 90mm long.

The ribbon bears four stripes of blue and white with a device bearing the Australian Wedgetail Eagle, Nemesis Scroll and the New South Wales State Badge attached thereon.

A ribbon bar is worn on the day to day uniform, a miniature is worn on evening wear and a lapel pin is worn on business attire.

Citation

A framed citation bearing the words Commissioner's Commendation for Courage, the citation is signed by the Commissioner.

Eligibility Criteria

Awarded to a member of NSW Police where the risk to life has been less apparent than criteria for Valour Award but where sufficient courage has been shown under hazardous circumstances to warrant the Award.

Under special circumstances it may also be awarded to a member of other jurisdictions or a member of the public.

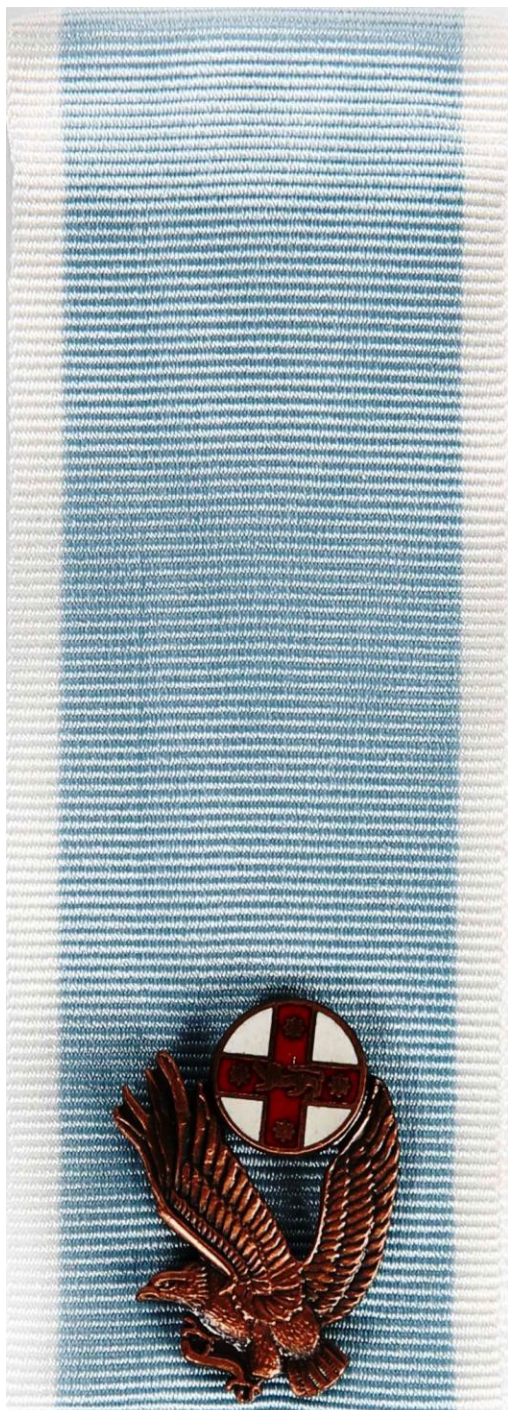
Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The award should be presented by:
Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)



NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONERS COMMENDATION FOR SERVICE



History

The award was instituted in 1965 as an Award Certificate signed by the Commissioner. In 1992, the certificate was complemented by the current drop-ribbon set.

A 2nd, 3rd and 4th Commendation may be presented by way of a bronze clasp added to the original award. After a maximum of 3 clasps (4 awards) are added only a certificate is awarded to the officer and an entry is made on the officer's personnel record.

This is a right-side decoration.

Design

A drop ribbon 32mm wide and 90mm long.

The ribbon bears three stripes with a device bearing the Australian Wedgetail Eagle, Nemesis Scroll and the New South Wales State Badge attached thereon.

Citation

A framed citation bearing the words Commissioner's Commendation the citation is signed by the Commissioner and is presented to the officer at a ceremony which befits the occasion.

Eligibility Criteria

The Commissioner may approve the award of the Commissioner's Commendation - Service in recognition of outstanding service performed by members of the NSW Police Force.

Under special circumstances it may also be awarded to a member of other jurisdictions or a member of the public.

A ribbon bar is worn on the day to day uniform, a miniature is worn on evening wear and a lapel pin is worn on business attire.

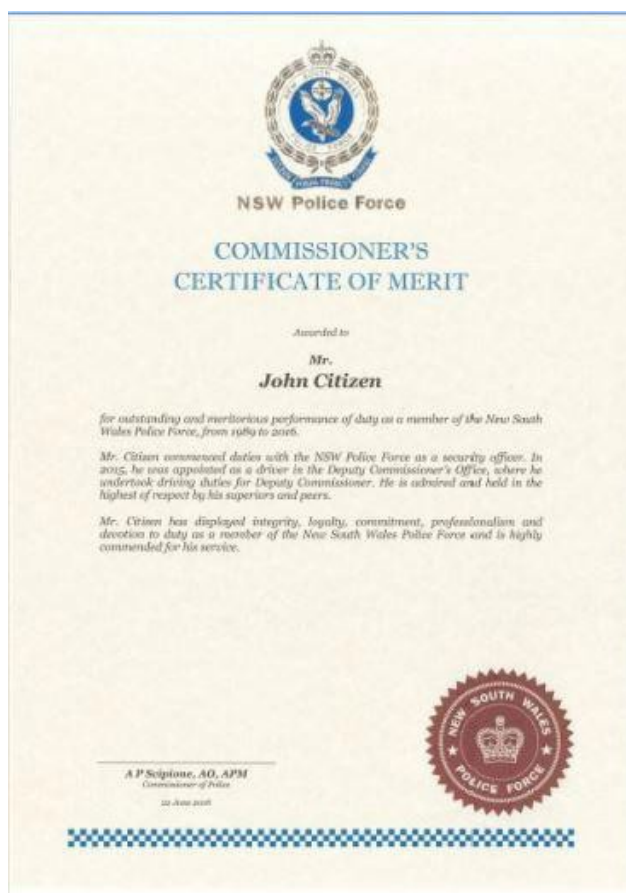
Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The award should be presented by:

Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CERTIFICATE OF MERIT



History

The Certificate was introduced by Commissioner Ken Moroney in 2002 to replace the Deputy Commissioner's Commendation

Design

The award is a framed certificate outlining the circumstances of the award.

Eligibility Criteria

The Commissioner may approve the award of the Commissioner's Certificate of Merit for outstanding circumstances or outstanding performance of duty.

Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The award should be presented by:

Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)



NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION - OLYMPIC

History / Eligibility Criteria

The Commissioner's Commendation - Olympic was approved to recognise "clear evidence of meritorious performance of service" undertaken by sworn and unsworn salaried employees during the planning period leading up to and during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games period.

This award was a one-off award.

This is a right-side decoration

Design

A drop ribbon 32mm wide and 90mm long.

The ribbon bears the Olympic colours of red, green, black, yellow and blue and a bronze clasp depicting the five Olympic rings.

Accompanying the ribbon is a miniature ribbon to be worn on mess dress.

A lapel badge is worn on plain clothes and a ribbon bar is worn daily on police uniform.

Citation

Citation outlining details of the circumstances surrounding the award.

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMENDATION

History

Instituted in 2002 as a drop ribbon set.

This is a right-side decoration.

Design

A drop ribbon 32mm wide and 90mm long.

The ribbon bears three stripes with a device bearing the Australian Wedgetail Eagle, Nemesis Scroll and the New South Wales State Badge attached thereon.

Citation

Citation outlining details of the circumstances surrounding the award.

Eligibility Criteria

Awarded to sworn or unsworn salaried employees who, in their own time and as representatives of the NSW Police Force:

- Consistently raise significant funds (more than \$50,000) for a community cause, a not-for-profit organisation or charity over five years or greater, or for an aggregate period of time totalling five years or greater,
- Undertake activities raising a significant awareness of community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse background, disability, or other impairment issues over five years or greater, or for an aggregate period of time totalling five years or greater.

It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

Community Service will be awarded once only per employee. There will be no clasp for a second award.

Presentation

A suitable function such as a special presentation ceremony for other awards.

The presentation should be made by
Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)



NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S EMERGENCY COMMENDATION

History

Instituted in 2020 as a drop-ribbon set.

Awarded to all sworn and unsworn officers of the NSW Police Force, recognising outstanding and extraordinary commitment to duty and professionalism during the unprecedented natural disasters, emergencies and deployments during 2019/20.

This is a right-side decoration.

Design

A drop ribbon 32mm wide and 90mm long.

The ribbon bears five stripes with a device bearing the Australian Wedgetail Eagle, Nemesis Scroll and the New South Wales State Badge attached thereon.

Citation

Citation outlining details of the circumstances surrounding the award.

Eligibility Criteria

Awarded to a member of NSW Police employed and on duty between 1 July 2019 and 31 December 2020, regardless of duty or deployment.

It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

Presentation

A suitable function such as a special presentation ceremony for other awards.

The presentation should be made by Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)



NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S COMMUNITY SERVICE CITATION

History

Instituted in 2002 as a metallic embellishment.

This is a right-side decoration



Design

32mm wide metal citation has a white enamel centre.

Citation

Citation outlining details of the circumstances surrounding the award.

Eligibility Criteria

The award is for sworn and unsworn salaried employees who, in their own time and as representatives of the NSW Police Force:

Have volunteered without accepting a fee and served on a board of management in the capacity of a company director in a police-related field or other not-for-profit organisation, for five or more years, are appointed as a camp supervisor, event supervisor, field officer or fund raiser for a police related charity or community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse background, disability, or other impairment awareness, in an unpaid volunteer position for five or more consecutive years and who have demonstrated an outstanding level of service.

It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

A further award is by way of a one-off silver star.

Presentation

A suitable function such as a special presentation ceremony for other awards.

The presentation should be made by:

Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S UNIT CITATION

History

The award was instituted in 1994 as a metallic embellishment. The criterion was slightly altered in 2003.

A 2nd, 3rd and 4th Commendation may be presented by way of a new citation bearing a silver star in the blue enamel. After a maximum of 3 stars (4 awards) are awarded, only a certificate is awarded to the officer and an entry is made on the officer's personnel record.

This is a right-side decoration.

Design

A 32 mm metal embellishment comprising a light blue enamel centre with silver coloured laurel leaf edge.



Citation

The unit citation is a framed citation and is retained at the home of the strike force, task force or other group whose meritorious service is recognised. A copy of the original citation will be provided to each task force or group member involved.

Eligibility Criteria

Awarded to members of NSW Police who collectively come together for a common purpose and perform outstanding service which may involve bravery or other actions of obvious merit. For the purpose of this Award, police personnel may be drawn from different strike forces, task forces, operations, sections, units, groups, commands, regions or police stations. It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

A further award is by way of a silver star on the citation – up to a maximum of 4 stars

Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The award should be presented by:

Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OLYMPIC CITATION



History / Eligibility Criteria

Awarded to all Police sworn and unsworn who were employed between the 15 September 2000 and the 1 November 2000

This is a right-side decoration

Design

A metal device, with silver laurel leaf surround, with navy blue enamel centre and silver Olympic rings.

Citation

No citation applicable

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE SESQUICENTENARY (150TH) CITATION

History

This citation is a one-off award to all sworn and unsworn members employed by the NSW Police Force anytime between 1 March 2012 and 28 February 2013 (inclusive) in celebration of the NSW Police Force's 150th Anniversary year.

This is a right-side decoration

Design

Metal device, with thin silver surround, with navy blue and light blue striped enamel centre and silver numerals of '1862' '150' '2012' with a depiction of the State of NSW and Sillitoe tartan.

Citation

No citation applicable

Eligibility Criteria

Issued to sworn and unsworn members employed by the NSW Police Force anytime between 1 March 2012 and 28 February 2013 (inclusive)

The citation is NOT issued to retired officers or members NOT employed during the qualifying period.
It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.



NEW SOUTH POLICE DILIGENT AND ETHICAL SERVICE MEDALLION AND ROUNDEL



History

The New South Wales Police Medallion was introduced on the 5th of February 2002. The medallion recognizes ten years eligible service. The roundel is awarded for each additional five-year period. The roundel also depicts the number of years of service. The medallion is an internal NSW Police award. The roundel is worn on the lapel or clothing on the left breast.

This roundel is worn as a right-side decoration.

Design

The medallion is made of tin lead alloy with antique silver plating and is 51 millimetres in diameter and portrays the Australian Wedgetail Eagle and the NSW State Badge surrounded by the inscription "NSW Police – Diligent and Ethical Service" the reverse has provision for the name of the awardee.

The roundel is 21mm x15 mm and portrays the same image and the years of service.

Eligibility Criteria

Awarded to unsworn police officers for 10 years diligent and ethical service. Roundels are awarded for each 5 years of service with the number of years' service depicted.

Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The presentation should be made by:

- NSW Minister of Police (or their nominated representative)
- Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE COMMISSIONER'S LONG SERVICE AWARD



History

These awards were instituted in 1996 as graduated lapel badges for 15, 25 and 35-years' service for unsworn staff and special constables.

Design. The awards bear Australian Wedgetail Eagle and the NSW State Badge with the wording 'FOR SERVICE' underneath.

They are either Gold, Silver or Bronze dependant on the length of service

This is a right-side decoration.

Citation: A certificate is also presented to the recipient.



Eligibility Criteria

The award is for unsworn salaried employees and special constables who have completed the required number of years' service

It is worn on the left lapel.



Presentation

A suitable function such as a special presentation ceremony for other awards.

The presentation should be made by:

The Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)

Australian Honours and Awards

NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE MEDAL

History

The National Police Service Medal recognises the special status that sworn police officers have because of their role protecting the community. It represents a police officer's past and future commitment to give ethical and diligent service. It was established by letters patent on 9 November 2010. On the 12 April 2014 it was announced that it was extended to recognise service on or after 14 February 1975, the date on which the Australian honours system was established.

This is a left-side decoration.

Design

The medal was designed by Inspector Rick Steinborn of the NSW Police Service and the ribbon by Federal Agent James Cheshire of the Australian Federal Police. The medal is finished in cupro-nickel. The St Edward's Crown, representing the Sovereign, is located on the suspender bar. The front (obverse) of the medal features the Federation Star located inside an unbroken circular chequered band, known as 'Sillitoe Tartan'. The unbroken band surrounds the star, signifying the unity and cooperation between each of the individual state, federal and territory police forces who together protect the entire Commonwealth. The back (reverse) of the medal has two sprays of golden wattle, the national floral symbol, located immediately below a raised horizontal panel on which the recipient's details can be engraved. The words 'FOR SERVICE AS AN AUSTRALIAN POLICE OFFICER' appear in capital letters around the inside of the outer rim. A ribbon bar is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

This is a one-off award and there are no clasps for periods of further service.

Eligibility Criteria

The Governor-General awards the Nation Police Service Medal on the recommendation of the Police Commissioner.

A minimum of 15 years' service is required to qualify; it does not represent a distinct period of service. A police officer must have been serving on or after the 14th February 1975. It can also be awarded to persons whose ability to complete the minimum qualifying period has been removed through death, injury or disability in the course of their police service.



Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The presentation should be made by:

- Governor General
- New South Wales Governor
- Federal Member of Parliament (governing party)
- NSW Minister of Police (or their nominated representative)
- Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)



NATIONAL MEDAL

History

Established in 1975 as one of the original elements of the distinctive Australian system of honours and awards the medal recognises long service in organisations that protect life and property at some risk to their members.

This is a left-side decoration.

Design

The National Medal is a 38mm bronze disc surmounted with the crown of St. Edward (obverse) shows the Arms of the Commonwealth of Australia encircled with the inscription The National Medal and For Service. The reverse has provision for the recipient's name. The 32mm ribbon is of alternating gold and blue stripes.

Eligibility criteria

The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.

Those awarded the National Medal will have served a continuous period of 15 years long and diligent service or an aggregate of 15 years.

A ribbon bar is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

A clasp is awarded for each 10 years of further long and diligent service.

Presentation

This award should be presented at a formal ceremony, a specially organised presentation of medals and awards ceremony, or similar function.

The presentation should be made by:

- Governor General
- New South Wales Governor
- Federal Member of Parliament (governing party)
- NSW Minister of Police (or their nominated representative)
- Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)

CROSS OF VALOUR (CV)

The Cross of Valour is awarded for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril. It is the highest Australian Bravery Decoration.

History

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.

This is a left-side decoration



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. The ribbon is magenta with a central blood-red band.

Eligibility Criteria

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 Australia may also be nominated. Bravery decorations may be made posthumously. It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

Next steps

The Honours Secretariat at Government House researches the nominations. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council then considers them. The Council has fourteen members including representatives of each state and territory, two ex-officio members and four community members appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council makes recommendations for awards 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 announcements a year each April and August.

Presentation

After the announcement of awards, recipients are invited to a ceremony or investiture at Government House in their state. Recipients have the post-nominals of CV. Those awarded a bar or bars may also use 'and Bar' or 'and Bars' after their name.

STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

The Star of Courage is awarded for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril. It is the second highest Australian Bravery Decoration.

History

Australian Bravery Decorations date from the establishment of the Australian honours system in February 1975. 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.

This is a left side decoration

Design

The Star of Courage is a silver, ribbed star with seven points 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 Courage. The medal ribbon is blood-red with a central magenta band.

Eligibility Criteria

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 Australia may also be nominated. Bravery decorations may be made posthumously. It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

Next steps

The Honours Secretariat at Government House researches the nominations. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council then considers them. The Council has fourteen members including representatives of each state and territory, two ex-officio members and four community members appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council makes recommendations for awards 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 announcements each year in April and August.

Presentation

After the announcement of awards, recipients are invited to a ceremony or investiture at Government House in their state. Recipients have the post-nominals of SC. Those awarded a bar or bars may also use 'and Bar' or 'and Bars' after their name.



BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The Bravery Medal is awarded for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances. It is the third highest Australian Bravery Decoration.

History

Australian Bravery Decorations date from the establishment of the Australian honours system in February 1975. 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.

This is a left side decoration

Design

The Bravery Medal is a circular bronze medal ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The medal is surmounted with the shield and crest of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The Federation Star is above the shield, which is contained in a circular zig-zag border. The medal ribbon has alternating red and magenta stripes.

Eligibility criteria

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 Australia may also be nominated. Bravery decorations may be made posthumously. The Honours Secretariat at Government House researches the nominations. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council then considers them. The Council has fourteen members including representatives of each state and territory, two ex-officio members and four community members appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council makes recommendations for awards 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 announcements a year each April and August. It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

Presentation

After the announcement of awards, recipients are invited to a ceremony or investiture at Government House in their state. Recipients have the post-nominals of BM. Those awarded a bar or bars may also use 'and Bar' or 'and Bars' after their name.





THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

The Commendation for Brave Conduct is conferred for an act of bravery that is worthy of recognition. It is the fourth highest Australian Bravery Decoration.

History

Australian Bravery Decorations date from the establishment of the Australian honours system in February 1975.

This is a left side decoration

Design

The Commendation for Brave Conduct is a silver gilt sprig of mimosa mounted on a blood-red backing ribbon. 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.

Eligibility criteria

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 Australia may also be nominated. Bravery decorations may be made posthumously.

Next steps

The Honours Secretariat at Government House researches the nominations. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council then considers them. The Council has fourteen members including representatives of each state and territory, two ex-officio members and four community members appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council makes recommendations for awards to the Governor-General. The Council also recommends the level of awards.

Presentation

There is no set timeframe for announcing bravery awards. Generally, there are two announcements a year in April and August. After the announcement of awards, recipients are invited to a ceremony or investiture at Government House in their state.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The Group Bravery Citation is awarded for a collective act of bravery by a group of people in extraordinary circumstances that is considered worthy of recognition.



History

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.

This is a left side decoration

Design

A bronze gilt sprig of wattle, Australia's floral emblem, positioned in the centre of a silver rectangle.

Eligibility criteria

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 Australia may also be nominated. Bravery decorations may be made posthumously. It is worn on the day to day uniform and a miniature is worn on evening wear.

Next steps

The Honours Secretariat at Government House researches the nominations. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council then considers them. The Council has fourteen members including representatives of each state and territory, two ex-officio members and four community members appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council makes recommendations for awards 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 announcements a year each April and August.

Presentation

After the announcement of awards, recipients are invited to a ceremony or investiture at Government House in their state.

AUSTRALIAN POLICE MEDAL (APM)

History

The **Australian Police Medal (APM)** is awarded for distinguished service by a member of an Australian police force. The APM was introduced in 1986, and replaced the Imperial Queen's Police Medal for Gallantry and Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

The total number of awards for each police force each year must not exceed one APM for every 1,000, or part of 1,000, sworn members in the force. Recipients of the Australian Police Medal are entitled to use the post-nominal letters "APM"

This is a left side decoration

Design

The APM is a circular, nickel-silver medal ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The front of the medal displays the effigy of the Sovereign on a Federation Star, superimposed over a pattern of fluted rays. The back of the medal is inscribed with the words 'Australian Police Medal' and 'For Distinguished Service'. The inscriptions are encircled by a wreath of the national floral emblem, the golden wattle

Eligibility Criteria

The Australian Police Medal is awarded for distinguished service by a member of an Australian police force.

Next steps

Awards are made by the Governor-General, on the nomination of the responsible minister in each state or territory, and at the federal level.

Presentation

After the announcement of awards, recipients are invited to a ceremony or investiture at Government House by the New South Wales Governor. It is presented (during May and September) at Government House Sydney.

Recipients have the post-nominals "APM".





PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL (PSM)

History

This medal was established in 1989 to recognise outstanding service by members of Australian public services (Commonwealth, State and Territory) and other government employees including those in local government. Only one award is ever made to an individual and recipients are entitled to use the post-nominal letters PSM.

This is a left side decoration

Design

A nickel-silver 38mm medal (obverse) an inner circle showing four planetary gears spaced equidistant from a central sun gear, surrounded by the inscription Public Service. An outer circle shows 36 upright human figures representing a wide range of professions and activities. (Reverse) a wreath of mimosa surrounding the text For Outstanding Service. The ribbon 32mm with 12 alternating stripes of green and gold of varying widths, the widest green on the left and widest gold on the right.

Citation

The citation is prepared from information gathered from the nomination submission.

Eligibility criteria

Awarded for outstanding service by members of Australian public services (Commonwealth, State and Territory) including those on local government. An annual quota exists for each government public service, with a total of 100 Medals (22 NSW) available each year.

Next steps

Nomination for the Award must be made in the first instance through the Ambulance Service Chief Executive. A supported nomination is then recommended by the responsible Minister in the Commonwealth and each State and Territory for approval by the Governor General. A letter of offer for the award is forwarded to the awardee approximately three months prior to the announcement (Australia Day/Queens Birthday) and if accepted notified in the Commonwealth of Australia Awards Gazette.

Presentation:

After the announcement of awards, recipients are invited to a ceremony or investiture at Government House by the New South Wales Governor. It is presented (during May and September) at Government House Sydney.

Recipients have the post-nominals "PSM".

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL

History

The National Emergency Medal was approved by Her Majesty The Queen in October 2011.

This is a left side decoration



Design

The National Emergency Medal is circular, 38 millimetres in diameter, and finished in Nickel Silver. The medal is suspended from a 32-millimetre-wide ribbon by means of a fixed nickel- silver suspender bar featuring the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. A stylised representation of Australia's national floral emblem, the wattle, is the central symbol of the National Emergency Medal. The image around the central image is of flowering wattle, representing the accomplishments and sacrifices made by Australians in the service of others in times of crisis. The back of the medal repeats the ring of flowering wattle, and details the award and recipient, and includes the words 'FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS IN A NATIONAL EMERGENCY' The National Emergency Medal ribbon colours match the colours of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal ribbon. The colours of the ribbon are gold and eucalyptus green. Gold symbolises the Australian sun, optimism and hope. Eucalyptus green complements the symbolism of the medal design. The seven gold coloured bands represent Australia's six states, with the seventh representing the territories.

Citation

The citation is prepared from information gathered from the nomination submission.

Eligibility criteria

The Governor-General may approve an award for significant service, on the recommendation of the Committee, or for an award for sustained service, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Police.

Presentation: As determined by the Police Protocol and Awards Unit.

HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL

History

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal was established on 16 April 1999 by Letters Patent to recognise humanitarian service provided in response to civil unrest overseas. The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal Regulations were amended in 2005 to enable recognition of humanitarian service provided in response to national disasters overseas.

This is a left side decoration

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 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.

Ribbon

The colours of the ribbon are gold and eucalyptus green.

Citation

The citation was prepared from information gathered from the nomination submission.

Eligibility Criteria

Potential recipients must prove they worked for a minimum of 30 days in the location depicted by the clasp, during a period of time set in the award criteria. In addition, potential recipients have to be working for an aid organisation recognised by the criteria or with a United Nations taskforce during that timeframe. In 2005, special criteria were established for people working during the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake or the 2005 Nias– Simeulue earthquake, with a maximum time period of 7 or 14 days depending on the time frame.

Presentation: As determined by the Police Protocol and Awards Unit.



POLICE OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL

History

The Police Overseas Service Medal complements the Australian Service Medal, which is awarded to members of the Australian Defence Force, and the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal. Australian police forces have been involved in overseas peacekeeping since 1964. At this time, 40 police were sent to Cyprus to help maintain peace after independence was declared. In 1991, the overseas peace-keeping role of police officers was formally acknowledged with the introduction of the Police Overseas Service Medal. The medal is awarded with a clasp, which details the area of service.

This is a left side decoration

Design

The Police Overseas Service Medal features a globe of the world surmounted by a branch of wattle, which is Australia's national floral emblem. The rim of the medal is a chequer board pattern, which symbolises police forces across the world. The circular, nickel-silver medal is ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The back of the medal displays a Federation Star. The words 'Police Overseas Service Medal' are inscribed around the rim.

Citation

The citation was prepared from information gathered from the nomination submission.

Eligibility Criteria

The Governor-General awards the medal on the recommendation of the Chief Officer of an Australian police force. The medal is awarded with a clasp, which features the area of prescribed service. Additional awards to the same person are in the form of another clasp with the area of service inscribed.

Presentation: Commissioner of Police (or their nominated representative)



CENTENARY MEDAL

History

The Centenary Medal was announced by the Prime Minister on 28 December 2001. The medal was created to honour living persons who have made a contribution to Australian society or government. This includes those Australians who have lived throughout first century of federation ('Centenarians') and other persons who have made a contribution to the nation or their locality.

This is a left side decoration

Design

(Obverse) a seven-pointed Commonwealth Star, representing the six Australian states, with the seventh point representing Australia's territories. At the centre of the Star is an indigenous styling of Aboriginal traditions at the heart of the continent with a central band inscribed Centenary of Federation 1901-2001.

There are 100 dots around the outer edge symbolising 100 years of federation. (Reverse) There are 100 dots around the outer edge symbolizing 100 years of federation. Inscribed with the Awardees' name.

Ribbon

The colours are crimson for Federation (Sir Henry Parkes 'the crimson thread of kinship') and blue and gold for the beginning of the 21st Century. The seven gold and red lines represent the pathways to federation of the states.

Citation

The citation was prepared from information gathered from the nomination submission.

Eligibility Criteria

'Centenarians', namely Australian citizens born on or before 31 December 1901 and lived to celebrate the centenary of federation on 1 January 2001, have an entitlement to the Medal.

To enable the community to thank those who have made Australia's first hundred years as a federal nation such a great success and who have laid solid foundations for Australia's future. The award of the medal to them will be a fitting acknowledgment from the nation of their long contribution to Australia.

Presentation

The presentation was made by the local Federal Member. The Local Government Mayor's hosted a ceremony in honour of all Centenary Medal recipients.



OTHER AWARDS

NSW PREMIER'S BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY CITATION.

History:

Awarded to recognise the outstanding contribution of volunteers and emergency services personnel who played a significant role in the emergency response to combat the 2019-2020 bushfires.

This is a right-side decoration

Design:

The citation is a rectangular silver framed navy-blue bar, 32mm by 13mm, featuring a red stripe to signify the bushfire event and the NSW State Flower, the Waratah.

Inscribed "2019-2020" in navy-blue under the red stripe.



Citation:

A certificate bearing the citation is awarded along with a blue baseball cap bearing a stylized waratah and the words "NSW Bushfires 2019-2020".

Eligibility Criteria:

Awarded to a member of a combat agency, emergency services organisation or supporting agency called upon by the lead agency to perform duties as part of an operational response to the Bushfires.

The recipient has performed operational duties (as defined) within the event period of 1 July 2019 – 31 March 2020.

There is no minimum period of duty.

Presentation:

As requested by the Commissioner of Police.

2010–2011 (QUEENSLAND) FLOOD AND CYCLONE CITATION.

History:

Established by the Queensland Government in 2011, first awarded on the 4 June 2011.

This is a right-side decoration



Design:

Ribbon, four white stripes representing the four emergency service agencies: police, fire, ambulance and State Emergency Service.

Frame, Bronze metallic featuring two cyclone symbols representing Cyclone Tasha and Cyclone Yasi with ten sets of three diagonal lines representing the rain that resulted in major flooding and accompanying high tides.

Citation:

No citation applicable

Eligibility Criteria:

Awarded to police, fire, ambulance and State Emergency Service who performed duty on at least one shift at any time between 1 December 2010 and 28 February 2011.

Duty performed may be in direct response to the flood and cyclone events or maintaining core business during this period

Presentation:

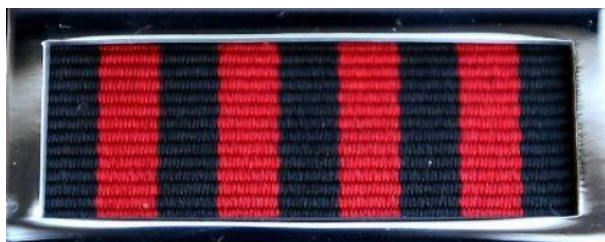
As requested by the Commissioner of Police of the Jurisdiction

CANTERBURY (NEW ZEALAND) EARTHQUAKE CITATION

History:

The 2011 Canterbury Earthquake Citation was initiated by the New Zealand Police to recognise the exceptional work of those deployed under their command on the ground in Christchurch during the national emergency period of 22 February 2011 to 30 April 2011.

This is a right-side decoration



Design:

The 2011 Canterbury Earthquake Citation is a Dress Distinction featuring four red stripes on a black background –Canterbury colours – within a silver metallic surround

Citation:

The citation was prepared from information gathered from the nomination submission.

Eligibility Criteria:

Awarded to NSW Police who were deployed to the Canterbury Region in response to the earthquake.

Presentation:

As requested by the Commissioner of Police of the Jurisdiction

G20 (QUEENSLAND) CITATION

History:

The G20 Citation is a group citation introduced to acknowledge the successful security services provided by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and other Government agencies during G20 events held in Queensland during 2014.

This is a right-side decoration.

Design:

The G20 Citation features three equal sized panels of green, blue and orange, with white striping either side of the central blue panel.

The ribbon is surrounded by an antique silver metallic frame featuring the wording "G20" at the top of the frame and "2014" at the bottom of the frame.

The colours of the citation reflect the colours used in the official G20 logo which represent the Australian forests, ocean and deserts.

Citation:

No citation applicable

Eligibility Criteria:

This group citation will be issued to eligible QPS personnel. It may also be issued to eligible personnel from other Government agencies (e.g. Interstate Police) who worked a minimum of three days providing direct security services in Queensland during the G20 events;

Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (15-22 September 2014) held in Cairns; and G20 Leaders' Summit (2-17 November 2014) held in Brisbane

Presentation:

As requested by the Commissioner of Police of the Jurisdiction



XXI COMMONWEALTH GAMES (QUEENSLAND) CITATION

History:

The XXI Commonwealth Games Citation is group citation introduced to acknowledge the successful joint security services provided by the Queensland Police Service, the Public Safety Business Agency and eligible Government groups during the XXI Commonwealth Games held predominantly at the Gold Coast, Queensland in 2018.

This is a right-side decoration

Design:

The citation features three panels of blue, yellow and red, with white stripes either side of the central yellow panel. The colours represent the Gold Coast where the games were held. Surf (blue), Sand (yellow) and Sun (red).

The ribbon is surrounded by an antique silver metallic frame bearing the words "XXI COMMONWEALTH GAMES" at the top and "2018" at the bottom.



Citation:

No citation applicable

Eligibility Criteria:

The citation may be issued to paid personnel or volunteers of eligible Government groups, determined by the Queensland Police Commissioner, who provided a minimum of three days of direct security service to the Games between 4-15 April 2018.

The citation may also be awarded at the discretion of the Commissioner to an individual who provided advice and assistance to the Queensland Police Service in relation to the Games.

The three days qualifying period need to be consecutive.

The citation is awarded only once to an individual.

Presentation:

As requested by the Commissioner of Police of the Jurisdiction



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY EMERGENCY MEDAL

History:

The ACT Emergency Medal was commissioned in March 2004 to recognise the efforts of those who worked tirelessly to preserve the community following the devastating bush fires of January 2003.

This is a right-side decoration

Design:

The medal is bronze with antique finish.

On the obverse a stylised flower symbolising the Canberra Bluebell flower, surrounded by wind and flame.

On the reversed inscribed:
COURAGE-LEADERSHIP-TEAMWORK-
PROFESSIONALISM- INOVATION-INTEGRITY

The ribbon is 32mm, flame red with a central yellow stripe bisected by a thin blue stripe.

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for this award members are required to have undertaken at least 8 hours duty, primarily involved in suppression of the bushfires or evacuation and protection of the community and displayed professionalism and dedication to duty, during the period 8 January to 19 January 2003

Wearing Medals, Citation and Embellishments on NSW Police Force Uniform

See New South Wales Police Dress Policy

HOW TO WEAR MEDALS ON CIVILIAN CLOTHING

Recipients normally receive a full-size medal, miniature and a ribbon and a small lapel badge depending on the type of award.

Males:

With suitable day dress (Lounge Suit), full size orders, decorations and medals may be worn at appropriate daytime functions such as ANZAC Day.

Evening functions where Lounge Suit is specified, the miniature of orders, decorations and medals are worn. In addition, one neck decoration may be worn. It is not customary to wear Breast Badges, or Broad Ribbands and Badges with Lounge Suit.

Females:

In civilian dress may wear the orders, decorations and medals to which they are entitled under the same conditions as for men.

The manner of wearing the insignia of orders, decorations and medals is the same as for males. Female recipients however may choose to mount the miniatures on a bar and to wear on such occasions. When the recipient of an Australian Honour it may be mounted on a bow in lieu of the ribbon and worn immediately below their miniature.

At evening events, such as receptions or dinners, where decorations have been prescribed, the miniature insignia is generally worn. When the recipient of an Australian Honour it may be mounted on a bow in lieu of the ribbon and worn immediately below their miniature.

Lapel Badges:

A feature of many Australian awards including the New South Wales Police Valour Award, Commissioners Commendation for Courage, and Commissioners Commendation for Service. Recipients may wear them provided no other insignia is being worn. (Only one single insignia of the highest award).

Non-sworn staff can wear the New South Wales Police Medallion Roundel or the Commissioners Long Service Award.

Ribbon bars

Sworn Members and Non-Sworn: not worn on civilian attire

National Honours awarded whilst in the service of the Australian Defence Forces are approved to be worn on the left side of the NSW Police Force uniform in order of precedence.

Order of Precedence Australian Honours and Awards

The Governor-General notifies for general information the positioning of the wearing of Australian Orders, Decorations and Medals. This notification incorporates the positioning of the following awards: the Afghanistan Medal (notified in Special Gazette No. S422 of 22 October 2004); the Iraq Medal (notified in Special Gazette No. S421 of 22 October 2004); and the Australian Defence Medal (notified in Special Gazette No. S48 of 30 March 2006).

The Schedule, together with the Annexes to the Schedule, incorporates the new positioning of these awards and supersedes that notified in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. S101 of 4 April 2002.

























Honours and Awards listed in the Schedule and Annexes in **BOLD** print are:

- those within the Australian System of Honours and Awards;
- those conferred by The Sovereign in exercise of the Royal Prerogative;
- those within the Order of St John; and
- foreign awards, the acceptance and wearing of which have been authorised by the Governor-General.
 - all imperial British awards made to Australian citizens after 5 October 1992 are foreign awards and should be worn accordingly.













Those Honours and Awards listed in the Schedule and Annexes in **UNBOLDED** print are Imperial awards. The Order of Precedence show the ribbon for the Honour or Award is shown below.

Those Honours and Awards that have post-nominals attached show the post-nominal letters, in **bold**, after the name.

1.  **Victoria Cross/Victoria Cross for Australia VC**
2.  **Cross of Valour CV**
3.  **Knight/Lady Companion of the Order of the Garter KG/LG**
4.  **Knight/Lady of the Order of the Thistle KT/LT**
5.  **Member of the Order of Merit OM** (Civil Division and Military Division)
6.  **Knight/Dame of the Order of Australia AK/AD**
7.  **Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order GCVO**
8.  **Companion of the Order of Australia** (General Division) **AC**
 (Military Division) **AC**
9.  **Knight/Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order**
KCVO/DCVO
10.  **Officer of the Order of Australia** (General Division) **AO**
 (Military Division) **AO**
11.  **Commander of the Royal Victorian Order CVO**
12.  **Star of Gallantry SG**
13.  **Star of Courage SC**
14.  **Distinguished Service Cross DSC**
15.  **Member of the Order of Australia** (General Division) **AM**
 (Military Division) **AM**
16.  **Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order LVO**
17.  **Member of the Royal Victorian Order MVO**
18.  **Conspicuous Service Cross CSC**
19.  **Nursing Service Cross NSC**
20.  **Medal for Gallantry MG**
21.  **Bravery Medal BM**

22.  **Distinguished Service Medal DSM**
23.  **Public Service Medal PSM**
24.  **Australian Police Medal APM**
25.  **Australian Fire Service Medal AFSM**
26.  **Ambulance Service Medal ASM**
27.  **Emergency Services Medal ESM**
28.  **Australian Corrections Medal ACM**
29.  **Australian Intelligence Medal AIM**
30.  **Medal of the Order of Australia (General Division) OAM**
 **(Military Division) OAM**
31.  **Order of St John**
32.  **Conspicuous Service Medal CSM**
33.  **Australian Antarctic Medal AAM**
34.  **Royal Victorian Medal RVM**
35.  **Commendation for Gallantry**
36.  **Commendation for Brave Conduct**
37.  **Commendation for Distinguished Service**
38.  **Australia Service Medal 1939-45**
39.  **Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975**
40.  **Vietnam Medal**
41.  **Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal**
42.  **Australian Active Service Medal**
43.  **International Force East Timor Medal (INTERFET)**
44.  **Afghanistan Medal**

45.  **Iraq Medal**
46.  **Australian Service Medal 1945–1975**
47.  **Australian General Service Medal for Korea**
48.  **Australian Service Medal**
49.  **Australian Operational Service Medal - Border Protection**
50.  **Australian Operational Service Medal - Greater Middle East
Operation**
51.  **Australian Operational Service Medal - Special Operations**
52.  **Australian Operational Service Medal - Counter Terrorism/Special
Recovery**
53.  **Australian Operational Service Medal - Civilian**
54.  **Rhodesia Medal**
55.  **Police Overseas Service Medal**
56.  **Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal**
57.  **National Emergency Medal**
58.  **Civilian Service Medal 1939–1945**
59.  **National Police Service Medal^[note 8]**
60.  **King Edward VII Coronation Medal (1902)**
61.  **King George V Coronation Medal (1911)**
62.  **King George V Silver Jubilee Medal (1935)**
63.  **King George VI Coronation Medal (1937)**
64.  **Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal (1953)**
65.  **Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal (1977)**
66.  **Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002)**
67.  **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012)**

68.  **Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal** (2022)
69.  **80th Anniversary Armistice Remembrance Medal** (1999)
70.  **Australian Sports Medal** (2000)
71.  **Centenary Medal** (2001)
72.  **Defence Force Service Medal**
73.  **Reserve Force Decoration RFD**
74.  **Reserve Force Medal**
75.  **Defence Long Service Medal**
76.  **National Medal**
77.  **Australian Defence Medal**
78.  **Australian Cadet Forces Service Medal**
79.  **Champion Shots Medal**

Long Service Medals

80.  **Service Medal of the Order of St John**
81.  **Anniversary of National Service 1951–1972 Medal**

82. **Foreign Awards** (in order of date of authorisation of their acceptance and wearing).

Citations

The following citations are not positioned according to the list above. For members of the uniformed services, they are worn according to respective Service dress rules. For civilians, they are worn centrally above any other honours or awards:



Unit Citation for Gallantry



Meritorious Unit Citation



Group Bravery Citation

Further Advice

Further information or assistance can be obtained from the:

Protocol and Awards Unit
Office of the Commissioner

protocol@police.nsw.gov.au