



AUSTRALIAN  
BRAVERY

*decorations*





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BRAVERY

*decorations*



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Enquiries should be forwarded to the Director, Australian Honours and  
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Every day, all around the country, there are ordinary Australians doing extraordinary things in their communities. The sum of these often selfless and generous actions enriches our society.

Australian Bravery decorations recognise acts of bravery where people selflessly put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

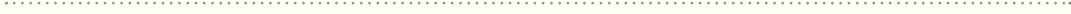
In a moment of peril, these individuals chose to act. They were brave and courageous. The safety of others mattered more than their own. Only recipients of Bravery decorations know what confronted them in the moment they acted.

To all recipients of an Australian Bravery Decoration, I say thank you.

Bravery decorations are an important part of the Australian honours system. Recipients of these awards have gone above and beyond what was expected of them and their recognition through our awards system is the nation's way of celebrating that contribution.

They are a source of inspiration and have helped make Australia the great country that it is.

Anyone can nominate someone for recognition with an Australian Bravery decoration. Whilst no one sets out to be brave, it is important that we as a community recognise and celebrate those who are.



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## INTRODUCTION

The Australian Bravery Decorations date from the establishment of the Australian honours system in February 1975. The decorations recognise acts of bravery by people whose selfless actions put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

There are four levels of awards for individuals, as well as an additional award to recognise the bravery of a group of people involved in a single incident. The awards, commencing with the highest, are:

- Cross of Valour – awarded for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril
- Star of Courage – awarded for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril
- Bravery Medal – awarded for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances
- Commendation for Brave Conduct – conferred for other acts of bravery which are considered worthy of recognition

The group award is known as the Group Bravery Citation. It was introduced in March 1990 and is awarded for a collective act of bravery by a group of persons in extraordinary circumstances that is considered worthy of recognition.

Anyone may nominate any other person, and the awards are not limited to Australian citizens. A citizen of another country who carries out an act that is considered worthy of recognition by Australia, and in Australia's interest, is eligible. However, if the nominated person is not an Australian citizen, the Australian Government, in accordance with honours convention, may need to seek the agreement of the government of the country of citizenship before the award can be made.

Members of Australia's armed forces may also be considered for a Bravery Decoration in certain circumstances.

Nominations are considered by the Australian Bravery Decorations Council which is an independent advisory body that meets twice a year to consider nominations and make recommendations to the Governor-General for awards. The Council also recommends the level of awards.

There is no set timeframe for the announcement of bravery awards, although generally there are two announcements each year in March and in August.

Upon publication of their award, recipients are entitled to have the appropriate post nominals placed after their names on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.



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## INFORMATION ABOUT AWARDS

### About the Australian honours system

The Australian honours system recognises the outstanding service and contributions of Australians.

Recipients come from across the country and from all walks of life. While some are well-known, the majority are unsung heroes. While typically they haven't sought thanks or recognition, they deserve both. The Australian honours system gives the nation a chance to celebrate and acknowledge those who work tirelessly to improve local communities and to make Australia a better place.

Collectively, they showcase the best attributes of Australians – as His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) has said:

*“Collectively, they speak to who we are as a nation. There are countless examples of selflessness, commitment and dedication. There is diversity and there are examples of exceptional achievement in almost every field imaginable.”*

The broad groups of awards are meritorious, bravery and gallantry, long service and good conduct, operational service, and commemoration.

The Australian honours system is administered by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat which forms part of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Responsibility for honours policy matters rests with the Honours and Symbols Branch of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

### History of the Australian honours system

The Australian honours system formally began on 14 February 1975 with the introduction of the Order of Australia, the Australian Bravery Decorations, and the National Medal.

The Order of Australia is a multi-level “society of honour”, recognising the merit of the service and achievements of its individual members. The Australian Bravery Decorations recognise individual or group acts of bravery. The National Medal is a long service and good conduct medal, awarded to members of recognised government and voluntary organisations which aid people and property in times of crisis.



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Although the system formally began in 1975, uniquely Australian medals existed before then. Service during World War II by Australians was recognised through the Australia Service Medal 1939-45; and a Vietnam Medal was also established, in 1968.

Both medals were created within the British Imperial honours system then in use, but could only be awarded for service by members of Australian armed forces. Even after 1975, the Australian and British systems temporarily operated in parallel. Imperial honours were awarded less often as time went on, until 1992, when it was agreed with Queen Elizabeth II that Australian governments would no longer recommend such awards.

The Sovereign still establishes Australian awards through Letters Patent, exercising the Royal prerogative. However, in most cases the Governor-General approves recommendations for appointments or awards.

Since 1975, additional Australian awards have been established to enable the recognition of various types of service and achievements to continue while the British counterpart awards were phased out. The Australian honours system has developed to a point at which it is truly unique, and tailored to Australia's needs.

### **About Letters Patent, Regulations, Determination, and Wearing**

The Letters Patent approved by The Sovereign institutes the medal and ordains that the medal is governed by the Regulations Governing the Award. These Regulations, approved by The Sovereign, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, set out the terms and conditions of an award, and states that the design, and manner of wearing, of the medal is determined by the Governor-General.

The Determination informs the design of the medal, its associated insignia, and that the order of wearing is in accordance with [\*The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards\*](#) and the manner of wearing is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*. This guide assists recipients on appropriate wearing, outlining the manner in which insignia are worn and wearing in regard to different types of dress. The design of the medal and associated insignia must be in accordance with the relevant technical specifications.

The placement of the medal is approved by The Sovereign, and [\*The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards\*](#) is the notification by the Governor-General of the positioning of all awards in the Australian honours system.

These instruments collectively inform the rules and conditions associated with the Australian Bravery Decorations.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### How to nominate

Anyone can nominate someone for an Australian Bravery Decoration.

To nominate someone complete the [Australian Bravery Decorations Nomination Form](#). Nominations can be submitted for individuals, groups and unidentified responders.

All nominations are then presented to the Australian Bravery Decorations Council who makes recommendations to the Governor-General.

Awards may be made posthumously and presented to the next-of-kin.

For further information see

[www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/australian-bravery-decorations](http://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/australian-bravery-decorations)

### Order of wear

Each medal is worn and approved by The Sovereign in accordance with [The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards](#).

### Care of medals

To ensure medals remain in good condition it is important to care for them. Always try to handle medals and components with cotton gloves or avoid direct contact with hands and fingers, as they can transfer acid onto medal surfaces.

Only clean/polish your medal, miniature medal and lapel badge with the polishing cloth supplied, or a leather chamois cloth. We do not recommend the use of any liquids, chemicals, abrasives or commercial cleaning agents on any metal components.

It is recommended that after use all medal components are cleaned, buffed and placed back into the original presentation box and stored in a dry area. Additional silica gel sachets may also be placed in the box for insignia stored in humid or coastal areas.

### Ordering replica and replacement insignia or additional items

#### Replica Insignia

Replica medals are available from medal dealers. They can be a good option for displaying medals, or wearing at events.



### **Replacement Insignia**

When medals have been damaged, lost or stolen the recipient may request a replacement.

### **Additional Items**

Other items such as lapel badges, miniatures, ribbons bars or rosettes may be purchased. Recipients may purchase up to six lapel badges in one year.

For recommendations of current medal dealers, or to purchase additional items, please call the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat on (02) 6283 3604.



# INSIGNIA DESIGN

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The Cross of Valour is a gold, straight-armed cross ensigned with the Crown of St Edward with the arms of the cross interspersed with fluted rays. The obverse bears 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 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 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 Cross of Valour, Bravery Medal and Star of Courage each have ribbons of different combinations of magenta and blood-red, symbolising the colours of venous and arterial blood.

The Commendation for Brave Conduct is a silver gilt sprig of mimosa mounted on a ribbon of plain arterial red colour.

The Group Bravery Citation is a device which has a raised bronze sprig of wattle, centrally positioned on a silver rectangle.



### THE CROSS OF VALOUR (CV)

Shall be awarded only for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril.



### THE STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

Shall be awarded only for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril.



### THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Shall be awarded only for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.



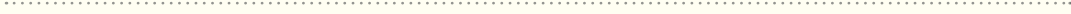
### COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

May be awarded for other acts of bravery which are considered worthy of recognition.



### GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Shall be awarded for a collective act of bravery, by a group of persons in extraordinary circumstances, that is considered worthy of recognition.







LETTERS PATENT  
*and*  
AUSTRALIAN  
BRAVERY  
*decorations*  
REGULATIONS

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# AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATIONS LETTERS PATENT

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ELIZABETH R

**AUSTRALIA**

*ELIZABETH THE SECOND*, by the grace of God Queen of Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

*TO ALL* to whom these Presents shall come,

*GREETING:*

*WHEREAS* it is desirable that there be instituted certain Australian decorations for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons who perform acts of bravery:

*KNOW YOU* that We do by these Presents institute four decorations to be designated and styled, respectively, the Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage, the Bravery Medal and the Commendation for Brave Conduct:

*AND WE DO* ordain that the award of the decorations so instituted shall be governed by the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations set out in the Schedule.

*IN WITNESS* whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

L.S.

Given under the Great Seal  
of Australia at Our Court at  
St. James's on 14 February 1975

By Her Majesty's Command,  
E.G. WHITLAM  
Prime Minister



ELIZABETH R

**AUSTRALIA**

*ELIZABETH THE SECOND*, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975 We instituted certain Australian decorations for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons who perform acts of bravery:

AND WHEREAS, by those Letters Patent, We ordained that the award of the decorations so instituted be governed by the Regulations set out in the Schedule to those Letters Patent:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that those Regulations be amended:

KNOW YOU that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the above-mentioned Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975 be amended, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder, as set out in the Schedule:

AND WE DO further declare that, notwithstanding the amendments to be made to the above-mentioned Regulations, a person, who, immediately before the issue of these Our Letters Patent, was a member of the Australian Decorations Advisory Committee by virtue of an appointment made under paragraph 7 (1) (c) of the Regulations shall continue to hold office until the expiration of 31 December 1987,

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

L.S.

Given under the Great Seal  
of Australia at Our Court at  
St James's on 17 November 1987

By Her Majesty's Command,

BOB HAWKE  
Prime Minister



ELIZABETH R

**AUSTRALIA**

*ELIZABETH THE SECOND*, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

*TO ALL* to whom these Presents shall come,

*GREETING:*

*WHEREAS* by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975 We instituted certain Australian decorations for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons who perform acts of bravery:

*AND WHEREAS*, by those Letters Patent, We ordained that the award of the decorations so instituted be governed by the Regulations set out in the Schedule to those Letters Patent:

*AND WHEREAS* it is desirable that those Regulations be further amended:

*KNOW YOU* that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the above mentioned Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975, as amended by Letters Patent dated 17 November 1987, be further amended, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder, as set out in the Schedule:

*IN WITNESS* whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

L.S.

Given under the Great Seal  
of Australia at Our Court at  
St. James's on 5 March 1990

By Her Majesty's Command,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Bob Hawke'.

BOB HAWKE  
Prime Minister



ELIZABETH R

**AUSTRALIA**

*ELIZABETH THE SECOND*, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

*TO ALL* to whom these Presents shall come,

*GREETING:*

*WHEREAS*, by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975, We instituted certain Australian decorations for the purpose of according recognition to persons who perform acts of bravery:

*AND WHEREAS*, by those Letters Patent, We ordained that the award of the decorations be governed by the Regulations Governing the Award of the Australian Bravery Decorations set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent:

*AND WHEREAS* it is desirable that certain amendments of the Regulations be made:

*KNOW YOU* that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975, as amended by Letters Patent dated 17 November 1987 and Letters Patent dated 5 March 1990, be further amended, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder, as set out in the Schedule.

*IN WITNESS* whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.



Given under the Great Seal  
of Australia at Our Court at  
St James's on 5 March 1998

By Her Majesty's Command,

JOHN HOWARD  
Prime Minister



ELIZABETH R

**AUSTRALIA**

*ELIZABETH THE SECOND*, by the Grace of God, Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

*TO ALL* to whom these Presents shall come:

*GREETING:*

*WHEREAS* by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975, We instituted certain Australian decorations for the purpose of according recognition to persons who perform acts of bravery.

*AND WHEREAS*, by those Letters Patent, We ordained that the award of the decorations be governed by the Regulations Governing the Award of the Australian Bravery Decorations set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent:

*AND WHEREAS* it is desirable that certain amendments of the Regulations be made:

*KNOW YOU* that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975, as amended by Letters Patent dated 17 November 1987, Letters Patent dated 5 March 1990 and Letters Patent dated 5 March 1998, be further amended, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder, as set out in the Schedule.

*IN WITNESS* whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

L.S.

Given under the Great Seal  
of Australia at Our Court at  
St James's on 25 August 1998

By Her Majesty's Command,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads 'John Howard'.

JOHN HOWARD  
Prime Minister



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# AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATIONS REGULATIONS

## **AS AMENDED**

made under

## ***LETTERS PATENT***

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This compilation was prepared on 13 January 2010  
taking into account amendments to the *Australian Bravery Decorations Regulations*  
up to 1998

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing,  
Attorney-General's Department, Canberra



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### Short Title

- 1 These Regulations may be cited as the Australian Bravery Decorations Regulations.

### Interpretation

- 2 In these Regulations, “decoration” means –
  - (a) the Cross of Valour;
  - (b) the Star of Courage;
  - (c) the Bravery Medal;
  - (d) the Commendation for Brave Conduct;
  - (e) the Group Bravery Citation; or
  - (f) except in subregulation 12 (4), a bar to an award referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

### Design of Decorations

- 3 The design of each decoration shall be as prescribed.

### Conditions for Award of Decorations

- 4
  - (1) The Cross of Valour, or a bar to the Cross of Valour, shall be awarded only for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril.
  - (2) The Star of Courage, or a bar to the Star of Courage, shall be awarded only for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril.
  - (3) The Bravery Medal, or a bar to the Bravery Medal, shall be awarded only for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.
  - (4) The Commendation for Brave Conduct may be awarded for other acts of bravery which are considered worthy of recognition.
  - (5) The Group Bravery Citation shall be awarded for a collective act of bravery, by a group of persons in extraordinary circumstances, that is considered worthy of recognition.



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- 5 All decorations may be awarded posthumously.
- 6 A decoration may only be awarded to a person who is not an Australian citizen –
- (a) for an act done in Australia; or
  - (b) for an act which, though done outside Australia, merits recognition as an act in the interest of Australia.

### **Australian Bravery Decorations Council**

- 7 (1) There shall be an Australian Bravery Decorations Council ('the Council'), which shall consist of –
- (a) the person for the time being occupying the office of Secretary to the Department of Defence or; if another office is prescribed for the purpose of this paragraph, the person occupying the office so prescribed;
  - (b) the person for the time being occupying, or performing the duties of, the office prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph by the Minister responsible for the administration of the Australian honours system or by any Minister or member of the Executive Council acting for or on behalf of that Minister; and
  - (c) 12 persons appointed by the Governor-General, of whom:
    - (i) 4 shall be nominated by the Prime Minister; and
    - (ii) one each shall be nominated by each of the States, the Northern Territory of Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.
- (2) A member of the Council referred to in paragraph (1) (c) shall hold office for a period of 2 years from the date of appointment and is eligible for re-appointment.
- (3) The Governor-General shall appoint one of the members of the Council to be Chairman of the Council and another member of the Council to act as Chairman in the event of the Chairman being unavailable to act in the office.

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- (4) A member of the Council referred to in paragraph (1) (a) or (b) or who is one of the members nominated by the States or Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia may, in the event that the member is absent or unable to act in that capacity, be represented on the Council by a person chosen, in accordance with arrangements made by the Governor-General, to act in the member's place as a member of the Council.
- 8 The Council shall –
- (a) consider, and make a recommendation to the Governor-General on, each nomination of a person for the award of a decoration; and
  - (b) advise the Governor-General on such other matters concerning the award of decorations as he may refer to the Council for consideration.
- 9 (1) The Secretary of the Order of Australia shall be the Secretary of the Council.
- (2) The Secretary of the Council shall maintain a Register of the names of persons to whom decorations have been awarded and such other records relating to the award of decorations as the Council considers necessary and perform such other functions in respect of the award of decorations as the Governor-General may direct.

### **Awards**

- 10 (1) The award of a decoration shall be made, with the approval of The Sovereign, by Instrument signed by the Governor-General.
- (2) Nothing in these Regulations limits the right of the Governor-General to exercise all powers and authorities of The Sovereign in respect of the award of decorations.

### **Nominations**

- 11 Any person or organisation may submit to the Secretary of the Council for consideration by the Council a nomination of a person for the award of a decoration.



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## Designations

- 12 (1) A person awarded the Cross of Valour is entitled to use the post nominal letters "CV" on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.
- (2) A person awarded the Star of Courage is entitled to use the post nominal letters "SC" on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.
- (3) A person awarded the Bravery Medal is entitled to use the post nominal letters "BM" on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.
- (4) A person awarded a bar to a decoration is entitled to use, after the letters prescribed by this Regulation, the words "and Bar" or the words "and Bars", as the case may be.

## Wearing of Decorations

- 13 The manner of wearing of decorations shall be as determined by the Governor-General.

## Cancellation and Reinstatement

- 14 (1) The Governor-General may cancel the award of a decoration to a person and may restore a decoration the award of which was so cancelled.
- (2) Where the award of a decoration is cancelled, the name of the person to whom the decoration was awarded shall be erased from the Register maintained pursuant to Regulation 9, and that person shall return the decoration to the Secretary of the Council.
- (3) Where an award that has been cancelled is restored, the Secretary of the Council shall restore the entry in the Register maintained pursuant to Regulation 9 that had been erased.

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## Notes to the Australian Bravery Decorations Regulations

### Note 1

The *Australian Bravery Decorations Regulations* (in force under *Letters Patent*) as shown in this compilation is amended as indicated in the Tables below.

#### Table of Instruments

Title	Date of notification in <i>Gazette</i>	Date of commencement	Application, saving or transitional provisions
Letters Patent and Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations – 1975	17 Feb 1975 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1975, No. S28)	14 Feb 1975	—
Letters Patent and Amendment of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations – 1987	5 Jan 1988 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1988, No. S5)	17 Nov 1987	—
Letters Patent and Amendment of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations – 1990	7 May 1990 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1990, No. S108)	5 Mar 1990	—
Letters Patent and Amendments of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations – 1998	—	5 Mar 1998	—
Letters Patent and Amendments of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations – 1998	25 Sept 1998 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1998, No. S473)	25 Aug 1998	—



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## Table of Amendments

ad. = added or inserted | am. = amended | rep. = repealed | rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
R. 2	am. 1987; 1990
R. 4	am. 1990
R. 6	rs. 1987
Heading to R. 7	rs. 1998 (No. 2)
R. 7	rs. 1987 am. 1998 (No. 1) and 1998 (No. 2)
R. 8	am. 1998 (No. 2)
R. 9	am. 1998 (No. 2)
R. 11	am. 1998 (No. 2)
R. 12	rs. 1987
R. 14	am. 1998 (No. 2)



AUSTRALIAN  
BRAVERY  
*decorations*  
DETERMINATION

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## AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATIONS DETERMINATION

I, General the Honourable David Hurley, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting in pursuance of regulations 3 and 13 of the *Australian Bravery Decoration Regulations* revoke the *Australian Bravery Decorations Determination* made on the sixth day of July 2012, and hereby determine as follows (see note):

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### THE CROSS OF VALOUR

#### Main Piece

- 1 The Cross of Valour is a gold cross 42 millimetres in diameter, ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in gold. The cross is surmounted by a gold suspender bar of fixed configuration, with the raised words 'FOR VALOUR' running the width of the bar on the obverse. The obverse of the cross bears a central device of the shield and crest of the Arms of the Commonwealth of Australia with the arms of the cross interspersed with fluted rays. The reverse of the cross is blank but has the arms of the cross interspersed with fluted rays and the suspender bar is clear to allow for engraving of the recipient's name.
- 2 The ribbon for the Cross of Valour is 38 millimetres wide and is magenta in colour with a blood-red central band 16 millimetres wide.
- 3 At the highest point, the shield and crest, the thickness is 6 millimetres. From the shield and crest, the cross tapers equally on all four sides down to an edge 2.5 millimetres in thickness. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 64 millimetres. The total height of the Main Piece is 92 millimetres.

#### Miniature Piece

- 4 The Miniature Piece of the Cross of Valour is a half-size replica of the Main Piece suspended from a miniature ribbon 19 millimetres wide. At the highest point, the shield and crest, the thickness is 3 millimetres. From the shield and crest, the cross tapers equally on all four sides down to an edge 1.5 millimetres in thickness. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 32 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 46 millimetres.



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### Ribbon Bar

- 5 The Ribbon Bar of the Cross of Valour consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 38 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high. When the Ribbon Bar is worn, an Emblem of the cross, 4 millimetres in diameter, is attached at the centre of the Ribbon Bar.

### Lapel Badge

- 6 The Lapel Badge of the Cross of Valour is a replica of the cross 10 millimetres in diameter.

### Further Awards

- 7 Second and subsequent awards of the Cross of Valour are recognised by the presentation of a gold Bar 35 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high. The Bar has a central replica of the cross 5 millimetres in diameter. The Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the original award. A half-size replica of the Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An additional Emblem of the cross, 4 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the Ribbon Bar.

### Wearing

- 8 The Cross of Valour is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Ribbon Bar may be worn at any time with service dress. The Lapel Badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress. The manner of wearing Australian Bravery Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.



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## THE STAR OF COURAGE

### Main Piece

- 9 The Star of Courage is a silver seven-pointed star, ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in silver. Each axis of the seven-pointed star measures 50 millimetres. The star is surmounted by a silver suspender bar of fixed configuration, with the raised words 'FOR COURAGE' running the width of the bar on the obverse. On the obverse the star bears a central device of the shield and crest of the Arms of the Commonwealth of Australia with the seven points of the star having a raised textured finish. The reverse of the star has a raised textured finish all over but the suspender bar is clear to allow for engraving of the recipient's name.
- 10 The ribbon for the Star of Courage is 32 millimetres wide and is blood-red with a magenta central band 14 millimetres wide.
- 11 At the highest point, the shield and crest, the thickness is 4 millimetres. From the shield and crest, the star tapers on all sides down to an edge 1.2 millimetre in thickness. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 63 millimetres. The total height of the Main Piece is 94 millimetres.

### Miniature Piece

- 12 The Miniature Piece of the Star of Courage is a half-size replica of the Main Piece suspended from a miniature ribbon, 16 millimetres wide. At the highest point, the shield and crest, the thickness is 2.5 millimetres. From the shield and crest, the star tapers on all sides down to an edge 1.2 millimetre in thickness. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 32 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 47 millimetres.

### Ribbon Bar

- 13 The Ribbon Bar of the Star of Courage consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high. When the Ribbon Bar is worn, an Emblem of the star, 4 millimetres in diameter, is attached at the centre of the ribbon.

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### Lapel Badge

- 14 The Lapel Badge of the Star of Courage is a representation of the star 10 millimetres in diameter.

### Further Awards

- 15 Second and subsequent awards of the Star of Courage are recognised by the presentation of a silver Bar 35 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high. The Bar has a central replica of the star 5 millimetres in diameter. The Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the original award. A half-size replica of the Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An additional further Emblem of the star, 4 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the Ribbon Bar.

### Wearing

- 16 The Star of Courage is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Ribbon Bar may be worn at any time with service dress. The Lapel Badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress. The manner of wearing Australian Bravery Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.



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## THE BRAVERY MEDAL

### Main Piece

- 17 The Bravery Medal is a circular bronze medal, 38 millimetres in diameter, ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in bronze. The medal is surmounted by a bronze suspender bar of fixed configuration, with the raised words 'FOR BRAVERY' running the width of the bar on the obverse. On the obverse the medal bears a central device of the shield and crest of the Arms of the Commonwealth of Australia on a background of wattle blossom, contained by a zigzag border. The reverse of the medal is a background of wattle blossom, contained by a zigzag border and the suspender bar is clear to allow for engraving of the recipient's name.
- 18 The ribbon for the Bravery Medal is 32 millimetres wide and has 15 alternating stripes of blood-red and magenta.
- 19 At the highest point, at the edge of the medal, the thickness is 3 millimetres. The reverse of the medal forms a concave design with various depths. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 56 millimetres. The total height of the Main Piece is 95 millimetres.

### Miniature Piece

- 20 The Miniature Piece of the Bravery Medal is a half-size replica of the Main Piece suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide. At the highest point, at the edge of the medal, the thickness is 2 millimetres. The reverse of the medal forms a concave design with various depths. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 28 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 47.5 millimetres.

### Ribbon Bar

- 21 The Ribbon Bar of the Bravery Medal consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high. When the Ribbon Bar is worn, an Emblem of the medal, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached at the centre of the ribbon.

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### Lapel Badge

- 22 The Lapel Badge of the Bravery Medal is a replica of the medal 10 millimetres in diameter.

### Further Awards

- 23 Second and subsequent awards of the Bravery Medal are recognised by the presentation of a bronze Bar 35 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high. The Bar has a central replica of the medal 5 millimetres in diameter. The Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the original award. A half-size replica of the Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An additional Emblem of the medal, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the Ribbon Bar.

### Wearing

- 24 The Bravery Medal is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Ribbon Bar may be worn at any time with service dress. The Lapel Badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress. The manner of wearing Australian Bravery Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.



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## THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### Main Piece

- 25 The Commendation for Brave Conduct is a silver-gilt sprig of mimosa 30 millimetres wide and 9 millimetres high mounted on a blood-red backing ribbon 32 millimetres wide and 90 millimetres high. The centre of the sprig is 19 millimetres from the bottom of the ribbon and 16 millimetres from either edge, mounted at a 45-degree angle with the stem of the sprig pointing to the bottom left of the ribbon as viewed by the observer.
- 26 When the sprig is viewed horizontally, the stem at the base of the sprig is 3 millimetres wide and 1.5 millimetres high. The sprig then fans out, with the addition of leaves in a V-shape pattern, to 9 millimetres wide progressively getting narrower as it reaches the top, the last two leaves are 3 millimetres wide. At the base of the sprig and directly above the stem are eight mimosa flowers, in the form of raised domes, of various sizes sitting on top of the leaves. At the highest point, the raised mimosa flowers, the sprig thickness is 2.5 millimetres. At the lowest point, the leaves and stem, the sprig thickness is 2 millimetres.

### Miniature Piece

- 27 The Miniature Piece of the Commendation for Brave Conduct is a half-sized replica of the Main Piece, a silver-gilt sprig of mimosa, 15 millimetres wide and 4.5 millimetres high, mounted on a blood-red backing ribbon 16 millimetres wide and 45 millimetres high, in the same way as the Main Piece.
- 28 When the sprig is viewed horizontally, the stem at the base of the sprig is 1.5 millimetres wide and 1 millimetre high. The sprig then fans out, with the addition of leaves in a V-shape pattern, to 4.5 millimetres wide progressively getting narrower as it reaches the top, the last two leaves are 1.5 millimetres wide. At the base of the sprig and directly above the stem are eight mimosa flowers, in the form of raised domes, of various sizes sitting on top of the leaves. At the highest point, the raised mimosa flowers, the sprig thickness is 2 millimetres. At the lowest point, the leaves and stem, the sprig thickness is 1.5 millimetres.

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### Ribbon Bar

- 29 The Ribbon Bar of the Commendation for Brave Conduct consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high with a miniature of the insignia of the Commendation for Brave Conduct attached to the ribbon, horizontally.

### Lapel Badge

- 30 The Lapel Badge of the Commendation for Brave Conduct is a miniature of the Commendation.

### Further Awards

- 31 Second and subsequent awards of the Commendation for Brave Conduct are recognised by the presentation of an additional Commendation which is worn attached to the ribbon of the original award, above the first Commendation. A half-size replica of the Commendation is worn attached to the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An additional Emblem in the form of a miniature Commendation is attached to the Ribbon Bar, along with previous awards.

### Wearing

- 32 The Commendation for Brave Conduct is worn on the left breast on all occasions when full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Ribbon Bar may be worn at any time with service dress or civilian dress at the discretion of the recipient. The Lapel Badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress. The manner of wearing Australian Bravery Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.



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## THE GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

### Main Piece

- 33 The Group Bravery Citation is a device which has a raised bronze sprig of wattle, 25 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high, centrally positioned on a silver rectangle 30 millimetres wide and 15 millimetres high with a highly polished finish. The Group Bravery Citation bears two pins on the reverse for stabilisation.
- 34 When the device is viewed horizontally, the sprig of wattle forms an arc shape with the bottom and top of the wattle orientated towards the two bottom corners of the device. The base of the device is 1 millimetre thick. The sprig of wattle is framed by a raised silver border running along the edge of the base of the device and it is 1 millimetre wide, 1 millimetre high and 1 millimetre thick. The bronze sprig of wattle thickness is 2 millimetres.

### Further Awards

- 35 Further awards of the Group Bravery Citation are recorded by a warrant describing the separate action being recognised.

### Wearing

- 36 The Group Bravery Citation is worn on the left lapel or left breast whenever orders, decorations and medals are worn. The manner of wearing Australian Bravery Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.

## ORDER OF WEAR

- 37 The Australian Bravery Decorations are worn in accordance with *The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards*.



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## NOTE

- 38 The Letters Patent approved by The Sovereign institutes the Decorations and ordains that the Decorations are governed by the *Australian Bravery Decorations Regulations*. These Regulations, approved by The Sovereign, set out the terms and conditions of the Decorations, and states that the design, and manner of wearing, of the Decorations are determined by the Governor-General.
- 39 This document is known as the Determination and it informs the design of the Australian Bravery Decorations, its associated insignia, and that the order of wearing is in accordance with *The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards* and the manner of wearing is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*. The design of the Australian Bravery Decorations and associated insignia must be in accordance with the relevant technical specifications.
- 40 The placement of the Australian Bravery Decorations are approved by The Sovereign, and *The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards* is the notification by the Governor-General of the positioning of all awards in the Australian honours system.
- 41 These instruments collectively inform the rules and conditions associated with the Australian Bravery Decorations.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023



GOVERNOR-GENERAL



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## *Contact* INFORMATION

### **Administering Australia's honours**

There are three organisations with primary responsibility for administering Australia's system of honours. They are the:

- Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, Government House, Canberra;
- Honours and Symbols Section, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and
- Directorate of Honours and Awards, Department of Defence.

### **Government House**

The Australian honours system was introduced in 1975. At that time the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat was established as part of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General at Government House in Canberra.

The contact details are:

Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat  
Dunrossil Drive, Government House  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600  
Phone: 02 6283 3604  
Email: [honours@gg.gov.au](mailto:honours@gg.gov.au)  
Website: [www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au)

If you have a hard copy of this booklet, please visit our website for notification of changes since publication.

### **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

The Honours and Symbols Section, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provides policy advice on the operation of the Australian honours system.

Phone: 02 6271 5601  
Email: [itsanhonour@pmc.gov.au](mailto:itsanhonour@pmc.gov.au)  
Website: [www.pmc.gov.au/honours-and-symbols/australian-honours-system](http://www.pmc.gov.au/honours-and-symbols/australian-honours-system)

### **Department of Defence**

The Directorate of Honours and Awards of the Department of Defence provides policy advice on defence honours and awards. The Department is also responsible for administering defence awards.

Phone: 1800 333 362  
Email: [honoursandawards@defence.gov.au](mailto:honoursandawards@defence.gov.au)  
Website: [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals)



