

Citizenship Ceremonies

Your Invitation

Your invitation will be sent approximately 4-6 weeks prior to your ceremony and will tell you the date and time of your ceremony, including what time you should arrive.

Do I need to attend a Ceremony to receive my Certificate?

Yes. Candidates are required to attend a Citizenship Ceremony and to make their Pledge of Commitment in order to validate their Citizenship and receive their Certificate.

Do children need to attend Citizenship Ceremonies?

Children aged 16 years and over are legally required to attend a Ceremony and take the Citizenship pledge to become an Australian Citizen. Children under the age of 16 are not legally required to take the pledge, however, they are welcome to attend and are encouraged to take the pledge if possible.

What if I can't attend the next scheduled Ceremony?

If you are unable to attend your Citizenship Ceremony, please notify us of your unavailability and we will include you in the next Ceremony.

Mobility

Please advise our staff in advance if you or your guests have any mobility requirements that we should be aware of.

Where are the Citizenship Ceremonies held and how long do they take?

Ceremonies are generally held at Rockhampton Regional Council, City Hall, located at 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton however on occasion, ceremonies can be held at other venues. The ceremony takes about 40 minutes with time for photo opportunities at the conclusion. We request you arrive 30 minutes prior to check-in with our staff. There is parking directly outside the building.

What happens on the day?

Most ceremonies follow a similar order of proceedings.

After you are seated, there will be:

- a formal introduction
- speeches, including a welcome message from the Minister
- the Pledge of Commitment
- National Anthem

As the final legal requirement, the Presiding Officer will ask you to repeat the Australian Citizenship Pledge of Commitment out loud. You will become an Australian Citizen after you make your Pledge of Commitment.

What do I need to bring with me to the Ceremony?

You are required to bring photographic identification (example: a current driver's licence or passport). These documents are required as proof of identification to take part in the Ceremony and for completion of an Electoral Enrolment Form.

If you are under 16, you do not need to bring photo identification.

What Pledge am I taking? What is the difference between Pledge 1 (under God) and Pledge 2 (without God)?

Pledge 1 is taken 'under God' and Pledge 2 is not. You would have nominated which Pledge you are making when you filled out your application form with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

The DIBP have advised us of your nominated Pledge and you will receive your Pledge Card at the Ceremony. If you are taking Pledge 1 (under God), you are welcome to bring a holy book to make your Pledge on.

Guests

Your invitation will tell you if you can invite guests, or the number of guests you can invite. Your guests might have to sit apart from you during the ceremony. Make sure any children are well supervised.

What to wear

The ceremony is an important event where you make your commitment to Australia. You and your guests should be dressed in formal or smart casual clothing, or your national or cultural dress, and groomed to reflect the significance of the occasion.

Can I take photographs?

Guests and candidates are invited to bring their own camera/device and are welcome to take photographs during and after the Ceremony. We will have a photographer present on the day who will take a photograph of you being presented with your certificate by the Mayor (or Presiding Officer).

For privacy reasons, our staff will ask you to complete a Photograph Release Form either before or at the beginning of your Ceremony which gives us permission to take your photograph on the day. If you do not wish your photograph to appear in a public forum (eg Facebook or RRC website) please advise staff on the day.

Citizenship certificate

After you have made your Pledge of Commitment, you will receive your Citizenship Certificate. Your Citizenship Certificate is issued in your legal name at the time your citizenship application was approved.

Your Citizenship Certificate is an important legal document. You will need it when you apply for an Australian Passport. You may need it to apply for a job or join the Australian Defence Force.

It is an offence to deface or alter your Citizenship Certificate.

I have lost my Citizenship Certificate, what should I do?

You will need to contact the DIBP on 131 880 to arrange a replacement Certificate. Further information is available via the DIBP web link www.citizenship.gov.au.

When can I apply for an Australian passport?

You must attend your Ceremony and receive your Citizenship Certificate before you can apply for an Australian Passport. The original Certificate will be needed when applying for the passport. For more information about Australian Passports, please visit www.passports.gov.au or call the Australian Passport Office on 131 232.

Enrolling to vote in elections

At the ceremony, we will give you an information sheet with a QR code to assist you to enrol to vote online. You may also:

- visit the Australian Electoral Commission website to enrol online, or
- get an enrolment form at any AEC office, or call the AEC to request a form.

Questions?

Please contact us.

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