



AUSTRALIAN  
BRAVERY  
*Decorations*



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A MESSAGE FROM  
HER EXCELLENCY, THE  
GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF AUSTRALIA,

*Ms Quentin Bryce AC*

Our Australian honours and awards celebrate our most cherished values. They help us to define and elevate what it means to be Australian, to be fully engaged in our democracy.

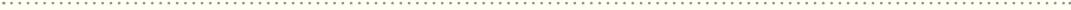
By recognising outstanding contribution and achievement, they show us the rewards of giving to others, of respect for one another, of responsibility and citizenship.

They emblazon our deeply held belief in the virtues of civility, compassion, dedication, courage and tenacity: the things that shape and strengthen our harmonious society.

Across a broad range of professional, public and community service, and through extraordinary acts of bravery and self-denial, the recipients of these accolades are our truest guides to what matters most, and our guarantee of ensuring its continuance through outward evolution and change.

I want to give my warm praise and sincere gratitude to all recipients of honours and awards, past and present, for your extraordinarily rich and generous offerings.

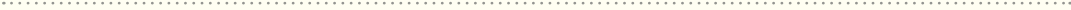
**ON BEHALF OF ALL AUSTRALIANS, I SAY THANK YOU AND WELL DONE.**



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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 amaze and inspire us, those who put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

There are four levels of awards for individuals, as well as an 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. This award 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 for an act of bravery, and the awards are not exclusively for Australian citizens. A person who is a citizen of another country, who carries out an act in Australia that would result in a bravery award being made, is eligible. Another factor is location. The brave act does not need to have occurred in Australia or to have been carried out by an Australian citizen, provided that the act itself was considered worthy of recognition in the interest of Australia.

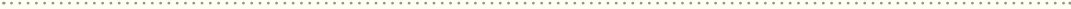
Another notable feature is access to the awards by members of Australia's armed forces in times of peace, or in times of war, where the act of bravery was carried out in circumstances other than in actions against the enemy. Service personnel from other countries, whether in Australia or overseas, may also be eligible for these awards.

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







# INSIGNIA DESIGN



THE CROSS OF VALOUR (GOLD), STAR OF COURAGE (SILVER) AND BRAVERY MEDAL (BRONZE) 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 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

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





*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.



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

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# AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATIONS REGULATIONS

AS AMENDED

made under

*LETTERS PATENT*

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This compilation was prepared on 30 March 2009  
taking into account amendments up to *Amendments of the Regulations Governing the  
Award of Australian Bravery Decorations* (LP 25 August 1998, S473)

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



### 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.
- 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.

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## 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.
- (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.

## 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.
- 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

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TITLE	DATE OF NOTIFICATION IN GAZETTE	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	OUTLINE OF CHANGES
Letters Patent and Regulation Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations (1975, No. S28)	17 February 1975	14 February 1975	
Letters Patent and Amendment of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations	—	17 November 1987	
Letters Patent and Amendment of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations (1990, No. S108)	7 May 1990	5 Mar 1990	
Letters Patent and Amendment of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations	—	5 Mar 1998	
Letters Patent and Amendment of the Regulations Governing the Award of Australian Bravery Decorations (1998, No. S473)	25 September 1998	25 August 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	am. 1998 (No. 1) and 1998 (No. 2)
	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. 13	am. 1998 (No. 2)



AUSTRALIAN  
BRAVERY  
*Decorations*  
DETERMINATIONS





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## AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY DECORATIONS DETERMINATIONS

I, **PHILIP MICHAEL JEFFERY**, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting under regulations 3 and 13 of the Australian Bravery Decorations Regulations, revoke the Australian Bravery Decorations Determination made on the twelfth day of August 1991 and determine as follows:

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## THE CROSS OF VALOUR

### DESIGN

- 1 The Cross of Valour is a gold cross, ensigned with the Crown of Saint 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.

### MINIATURE

- 2 The miniature of the Cross of Valour is a half-size replica of the cross suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide.

### RIBBON

- 3 The ribbon for the Cross of Valour is 32 millimetres wide and is magenta in colour with a blood-red central band 16 millimetres wide.

### RIBBON BAR

- 4 The ribbon bar of the Cross of Valour consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres deep. When the ribbon bar is worn, a representation of the cross, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached at the centre of the ribbon bar.

### LAPEL BADGE

- 5 The lapel badge of the Cross of Valour is a replica of the cross 10 millimetres in diameter.

### FURTHER AWARDS

- 6 Second and subsequent awards of the Cross of Valour are recognized 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 medal. A half-size replica of the bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the miniature medal. When the ribbon bar is worn a further representation of the Cross, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the ribbon bar.

### WEARING

- 7 The Cross of Valour is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The miniature cross 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 STAR OF COURAGE

### DESIGN

- 8 The Star of Courage is a silver seven-pointed star, ensigned with the Crown of Saint Edward in silver. 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.

### MINIATURE

- 9 The miniature of the Star of Courage is a half-size replica of the star suspended from a miniature ribbon, 16 millimetres wide.

### RIBBON

- 10 The ribbon for the Star of Courage is 32 millimetres wide and is blood-red with a magenta central band 14 millimetres wide.

### RIBBON BAR

- 11 The ribbon bar of the Star of Courage consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres deep. When the ribbon bar is worn, a representation of the star, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached at the centre of the ribbon.

### LAPEL BADGE

- 12 The lapel badge of the Star of Courage is a representation of the star 10 millimetres in diameter.

### FURTHER AWARDS

- 13 Second and subsequent awards of the Star of Courage are recognized 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 star. A half-size replica of the bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the miniature star. When the ribbon bar is worn a further representation of the star, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the ribbon bar.

### WEARING

- 14 The Star of Courage is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The miniature star 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.

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## THE BRAVERY MEDAL

### DESIGN

- 15 The Bravery Medal is a circular bronze medal, 38 millimetres in diameter, ensigned with the Crown of Saint 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 recipients name.

### MINIATURE

- 16 The miniature of the Bravery Medal is a half-size replica of the medal suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide.

### RIBBON

- 17 The ribbon for the Bravery Medal is 32 millimetres wide and has 15 alternating stripes of blood-red and magenta.

### RIBBON BAR

- 18 The ribbon bar of the Bravery Medal consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres deep. When the ribbon bar is worn, a representation of the medal, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached at the centre of the ribbon.

### LAPEL BADGE

- 19 The lapel badge of the Bravery Medal is a replica of the medal 10 millimetres in diameter.

### FURTHER AWARDS

- 20 Second and subsequent awards of the Bravery Medal are recognized 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 medal. A half-size replica of the bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the miniature medal. When the ribbon bar is worn a further representation of the medal, 5 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the ribbon.

### WEARING

- 21 The Bravery Medal is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The miniature medal 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 COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### DESIGN

- 22 The Commendation for Brave Conduct is a silver-gilt sprig of mimosa 30 millimetres long mounted on a blood-red backing ribbon 32 millimetres wide and 90 millimetres long. 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.

### MINIATURE

- 23 The miniature of the Commendation for Brave Conduct is a half-sized replica of the commendation mounted on a miniature ribbon, 16 millimetres wide, in the same way as the full-size piece.

### RIBBON

- 24 The ribbon of the Commendation for Brave Conduct is a blood-red ribbon 32 millimetres wide and 90 millimetres long.

### RIBBON BAR

- 25 The ribbon bar of the Commendation for Brave Conduct consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres deep with a miniature of the insignia of the Commendation for Brave Conduct attached to the ribbon, horizontally.

### LAPEL BADGE

- 26 The lapel badge of the Commendation for Brave Conduct is a miniature of the commendation.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENDATION

- 27 An additional award of the Commendation for Brave Conduct is recorded only by the Warrant describing the separate action being recognised.

### WEARING

- 28 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 commendation 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.

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## THE GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

### DESIGN

- 29 The Group Bravery Citation is a device which has a raised bronze sprig of wattle 25 millimetres long and 10 millimetres wide, centrally positioned on a silver rectangle 30 millimetres wide and 15 millimetres high with a raised edge 1 millimetre high and a highly polished finish. The Group Bravery Citation bears two pins on the reverse; one for stabilisation and the other is secured by a ballou clip.

### FURTHER AWARDS

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

### WEARING

- 31 The Group Bravery Citation is worn on the left lapel or left breast whenever orders, decorations and medals are worn.

### ORDER OF WEAR

- 32 The Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage, the Bravery Medal and the Commendation for Brave Conduct are worn in accordance with The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards as approved from time to time by the Sovereign. The insignia of the Group Bravery Citation should be worn centrally, approximately 10 millimetres above other awards.

Dated this First day of September 2008

Original Signed by General Jeffery

GOVERNOR - GENERAL



# Contact INFORMATION

## ADMINISTERING AUSTRALIA'S HONOURS

There are two organisations with primary responsibility for administering Australia's Bravery Decorations. They are:

- Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, Government House, Canberra
- Awards and Culture Branch, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE

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

The contact details for Government House Canberra are:

Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat  
Government House  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600  
Toll-free phone: 1800 552 275  
Email: [honours@gg.gov.au](mailto:honours@gg.gov.au)  
Website: [www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au)

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

The Awards and Culture Branch of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provides policy advice on the operation of the Australian Honours System.

It is also responsible for community awareness campaigns so that honours are more accessible and better known to all Australians.

Email: [itsanhonour@pmc.gov.au](mailto:itsanhonour@pmc.gov.au)  
Website: [www.itsanhonour@gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour@gov.au)