



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

FACT SHEET

- The Order of Australia is the most important and meaningful awards system in Australia.
- Each year, the Governor-General approves and announces awards to people for their outstanding service and achievement.
- People from all sorts of backgrounds, of all ages and who have done just about everything you can think of have been recognised through the Order of Australia.
- The system relies on nominations. People don't put their hand up to be recognised and they're not selected. They're nominated by peers and considered and recommended to the Governor-General by an independent Council.
- Anyone can nominate someone for an award and anyone – if they've worked hard and made a significant contribution to their community – can be recognised.
- Awards are announced on Australia Day and in June (the Queen's Birthday long weekend).

WHO RECEIVES THE AWARDS?

- While some recipients are well known, others are not. In fact, most awards go to members of the community who volunteer or work to help others.
- Recipients are recognised for their impact – whether at the locally, nationally or internationally. The types of service greatly and could include volunteer work in a community, acts of charity and compassion and/or professional achievement.
- The Governor-General wants to increase awareness and understanding of the Order of Australia – particularly amongst groups that have historically been underrepresented.

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

- Nominations can be made at any time. A nomination needs to include:
 - Examples of the individual's service or achievements
 - Names and contact details of referees who can validate.
- Upon receipt, additional research is undertaken on each nomination. This includes verifying facts and claims and checking with independent referees.
- Nominations are then assessed by the independent Council for the Order of Australia – which includes members from each state and territory and community representatives.
- This assessment includes what level of award an individual should receive. There are four levels: Companion of the Order (AC), Officer of the Order (AO), Member of the Order (AM) and Medal of the Order (OAM).
- The Governor-General acts on the Council's recommendations and approves awards, which are announced on Australia Day and during the Queen's Birthday Long Weekend.

FIND OUT MORE

- More information is available at www.gg.gov.au.
- To arrange for a presentation or have a more detailed conversation, email honours@gg.gov.au or call Rob Ayling on 0428 116 523.

