



Government House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

31 August 2022

**Honorary Appointment - General Division - August 2022 (4)**

**The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following appointment:**

**HONORARY COMPANION (AC) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION**

**The late Mr ABE Shinzo**, Japan  
For eminent service to the Australia-Japan bilateral relationship.

By His Excellency's command

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Singer'.

**Paul Singer MVO**

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**APPOINTED AN HONORARY COMPANION (AC)**  
**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**The late Mr ABE Shinzo**, Japan

For eminent service to the Australia-Japan bilateral relationship.

Mr Abe Shinzo formally agreed to receive this honorary appointment, the highest honour in the Order of Australia, prior to his tragic passing.

Mr Abe tirelessly advocated for the region's prosperity and stability, bringing his leadership as an experienced statesman of the first order.

Throughout his long political career, Mr Abe demonstrated his true friendship to Australia and a deep commitment to furthering the Australia-Japan trade and economic relationship, defence cooperation, and people-to-people links.

Japan is one of Australia's closest partners, propelled by Mr Abe's personal leadership and vision, including elevating the bilateral relationship to new heights under our Special Strategic Partnership.

As a former Prime Minister of Japan (2006–2007; 2012–2020), Mr Abe personally advanced several historic developments between our two countries, including signing the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAEPA), which has accelerated the flow of trade and investment between our nations and created new opportunities for Australian and Japanese businesses.

Also noteworthy are Mr Abe's contributions to Australia-Japan defence cooperation, which has gone from strength to strength over the last decade. The recent conclusion of the Reciprocal Access Agreement, which will facilitate much greater military cooperation between our two countries, was in large part possible because of Mr Abe's longstanding advocacy for closer security ties between our nations.

Mr Abe's leadership on the international stage was remarkable, including as a force behind the formation of the Quad between Japan, Australia, India and the United States of America. His vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific had a significant impact on the region and around the world. He was also a key advocate for the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans Pacific Partnership, which has brought vast benefits for Australia and other trading partners.

Mr Abe's eminent service to the Australia-Japan bilateral relationship is thoroughly worthy of formal national recognition with an appointment as an Honorary Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC).