



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

Knight/Dame of the Order of Australia

In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer recognition for outstanding achievement and service.

The Knight/Dame of the Order of Australia was awarded for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to Australia or humanity at large.

Governors-General became a Knight or Dame of the Order of Australia by virtue of their appointment as Governor-General. In addition to Governors-General, there was a maximum of 4 appointments a year, excluding honorary awards to non-Australian citizens.

About the award

The Order of Australia has five levels:

- Knight/Dame of the Order (AK/AD)
- Companion of the Order (AC)
- Officer of the Order (AO)
- Member of the Order (AM), and
- Medal of the Order (OAM).

Past recipients

Between 1976 and 1986 there were 14 appointments of Knight/Dame of the Order of Australia:

His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales

Sir Garfield Barwick AK GCMG QC, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia

Sir MacFarlane Burnet OM AK KBE, Virologist and Nobel Laureate

Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE, former Premier of Western Australia

The Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowen AK GCMG GCVO QC, former Governor-General of Australia

Sir Roden Cutler VC AK KCMG KCVO CBE, former Governor of New South Wales

Dame Alexandra Hasluck AD, Author and Social Historian

Sir Gordon Jackson AK, Industrialist

The Rt Hon Sir John Kerr AK GCMG GCVO QC, former Governor-General of Australia

Dame Enid Lyons AD GBE, former Member, House of Representatives, Australian Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Robert Menzies KT AK CH QC, former Prime Minister of Australia

The Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen KG AK GCMG GCVO KBE QC, former Governor-General of Australia

Sir Colin Syme AK, Industrialist

Sir Roy Wright AK, Physiologist

Between March 2014 and October 2015, there were five people appointed a Knight/Dame of the Order of Australia:

The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, former Governor-General of Australia

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia

Professor the Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, former Governor of New South Wales

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AC (Mil) AFC (Retd)



The Knight/Dame of the Order of Australia consists of a Neck Badge (or Shoulder) and a Breast Badge..

The Neck Badge is suspended from the neck by a ribbon of the Order. Females may prefer a bow set on the shoulder.



The Breast Badge is worn above the waist on the left side of the coat or outer garment.

Medal design

The Neck Badge of a Knight and the Neck/Shoulder Badge of a Dame consists of the Emblem of the Order, approximately 60 millimetres in diameter, of gold, jewelled and having the centre of its convex surface within a circle of gold, a representation of the Arms of the Commonwealth of Australia in full colour on a background of blue with two branches of mimosa in gold, the whole ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in full colour.

The Breast Badge of a Knight or Dame consists of the Emblem of the Order, approximately 80 millimetres in diameter, of gold, jewelled and having the same design and ensignment as the Neck Badge of a Knight and the Neck/Shoulder Badge of a Dame.

POST NOMINAL:

AK/AD

More information

IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: www.itsanhonour.gov.au