



Information about Citizenship Ceremonies

How do I get notified of when a ceremony will be held and whether I am on the list?

Once you are eligible to attend a citizenship ceremony to take the Australian Citizenship Pledge, a formal letter of invitation will be sent to you from the Mayors Office.

If you do not receive a letter from the Mayors Office you are not listed to take the Australian Citizenship Pledge, for that particular month. If you would like to know more details about when you will be scheduled please contact the Department of Home Affairs on 131 881.

Do I have to attend the ceremony? Can't I just collect my certificate or have it mailed out?

You will not become an Australian citizen until you have read the Australian Citizenship Pledge in the presence of the Mayor.

What do I do if I cannot attend this ceremony?

Please return the RSVP form to Wagga Wagga City Council and also phone the Department of Home Affairs on 131 881 quoting your reference number. Your name will then go on the list for a future ceremony. Dates for future ceremonies can be found on the council website

<https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/city-of-wagga-wagga/community/community-support/multicultural-wagga> .

What is the Australian Citizenship Pledge?

The "Australian Citizenship Pledge", below, are the words you will read out, in the presence of the Mayor, when you become an Australian citizen. You may choose whether or not to include the words "under God" (oath) or not (affirmation).

From this time forward, [under God]

I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people

Whose democratic beliefs I share

Whose rights and liberties I respect, and

whose laws I will uphold and obey

A pledge card with the words of the pledge will be given to you at the ceremony. Should you wish to make the pledge on a holy book, please bring that holy book to the ceremony. Children under 16 are not required to make the pledge.

Why have I been asked to arrive earlier than the time that the ceremony starts?

A large number of new citizens are invited, and all new citizens need to be registered and complete their electoral forms.

What about my children who are to become Australian citizens at this ceremony?

All children receive their own citizenship certificate. If a child (under 16 years) does not attend the ceremony, the parents may collect the child's certificate on their behalf, however, it is important we are advised of this in advance.

What do I do at the ceremony?

Please bring with you photo identification (current Australian drivers' licence is ideal). If you don't have any photo identification, you must provide at least 3 documents with your name, address and signature (eg. bank statements, credit cards, bills).

When you arrive, you will be checked in and complete the electoral form (this is required even if you are already enrolled to vote) and then be seated at your allocated seating. When the ceremony is under way, you will be called individually to stand in a group with other new citizens, and read out the pledge (oath or affirmation).

You will then receive your citizenship certificate from the Mayor. The ceremony lasts for approximately one hour with light refreshments served at the conclusion.

What do I wear?

The ceremony is an important event where you make a commitment to Australia. You and your guests should be dressed in formal or smart casual clothing, and groomed to reflect its significance.

Given this is a formal ceremony and you will be asked to go on stage to receive your Certificate of Citizenship, we encourage you to wear business attire or smart casual attire. Your own national/traditional costume is encouraged and is also acceptable.

If the ceremony is being held outdoors, you may want to take a hat and some sunscreen.

Your invitation to the ceremony may include additional information regarding the standard of dress required for the ceremony.

I have children who are not becoming Australian citizens at this ceremony - where do they sit?

If you have young children who are not becoming citizens, they should sit with you and your guests. If they are unable to do this, please indicate on your RSVP form so that additional seating (or a pram space) can be arranged for them next to you.

Can my family and friends, who are becoming Australian citizens, all sit together?

If you want to sit with family or friends who are becoming citizens, make this clear on the RSVP form, so we can arrange to seat you together.

Family and friends not becoming citizens can sit with you.

Can my guests sit with me? (Guests are *anyone* who are not becoming citizens, whether relatives or not.)

Yes. All people becoming citizens and their invited guests are seated together in reserved seating at the front. Any invited guests can arrive any time before the ceremony starts. There is guest seating at the rear section where there is no allocated seating.

Why do I need to complete an electoral form? I am already on the electoral role.

Those already on the roll still complete the form so that the Australian Electoral Commission can update your enrolment details to show your change of citizenship.

I have limited mobility – will this make any difference at the ceremony?

New citizens walk up and down a small set of stairs to the stage when collecting their citizenship certificates. If you will have difficulty doing this, please ensure you let us know on your RSVP form so we can make other arrangements. We would also appreciate your advice if you use a wheelchair so our seating arrangements can accommodate this.

Can photos be taken during the ceremony?

Yes. Friends and family are welcome to take photos before, during & after the ceremony. There will also be an official photographer on hand to take photos and one will be sent to you after the event as a gift from Council.