

From: NatO Ceremonies <Natoceremonies@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 16 December 2022 10:03 AM
To: NatO Ceremonies
Subject: Australia Day 2023 - Changes to the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Mayors and citizenship ceremony organisers,

Australia Day provides an opportunity for all Australians to reflect, respect and celebrate our national day. Australia Day is marked by events across Australia, including special citizenship ceremonies.

As you may be aware, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, recently announced an update to the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code (the Code) - see [announcement link](#).

The Government expects local government councils to hold a citizenship ceremony as part of their Australia Day celebrations. Many thousands of Australians have had their citizenship conferred on Australia Day, and many Australians would like to receive their citizenship on our national day, in their community.

The amendment to the Code states that Councils must hold a ceremony on Australia Day, or the three days prior or the three days after Australia Day.

Local government councils may require flexibility to plan their citizenship ceremonies. There are higher operational costs involved in hosting a ceremony on a public holiday, and councils might benefit from the ability to schedule their ceremonies as part of a broader program of Australia Day community events, among other reasons.

The requirement for councils to hold a ceremony if they conferred Australian citizenship on 20 or more people in the 2021-22 financial year remains. Councils which have conferred Australian citizenship on fewer than 20 people in the previous year will continue to be exempt from the requirement. However, even where not formally required to do so based on previous conferee numbers, many councils in the past have still chosen to hold citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day and this is still strongly encouraged.

For 2023, this means ceremonies held in the period Monday 23 January 2023 – Sunday 29 January 2023 will meet the requirements of the Code, as per the update.

Should you have any questions in relation to Australia Day 2023, please do not hesitate to contact your local state or territory citizenship ceremonies team.

Kind regards

Libby McDonald
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The Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Border Force acknowledge the Traditional Custodians throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and the community. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their cultures and to their Elders past and present.