

SHIRE OF IRWIN

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY FACT SHEET

HOW DO I APPLY FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP?

You can download an application pack from the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) website – <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

Or you can call the Citizenship Information Line on 13 18 80

WHEN AND WHERE ARE CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES HELD?

The Shire of Irwin will need to have received notification from the Department before a ceremony can be booked.

Citizenship ceremonies are held at a mutually agreeable time for both the Shire of Irwin and the potential citizen.

Citizenship ceremonies are held at the Shire of Irwin Council Chambers or at the Port Denison Foreshore on Australia Day.

DO I HAVE TO BRING ANYTHING WITH ME TO THE CEREMONY?

You need to bring your invitation to the ceremony and one form of photo identification:

- driver's licence
- passport, or
- an official document with a photograph

If your documents are not in English, you must provide official translations.

HOW LONG DOES THE CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY RUN FOR?

The Citizenship Ceremony will run for approximately half an hour. After the ceremony, candidates and guests are invited to stay for refreshments. The general proceedings are as follows;

- Welcome
- Message from the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs – The Hon Andrew Giles MP
- An address to participants
- National Anthem
- Pledge of commitment – this is the final legal requirement to becoming an Australian Citizen. The Presiding Officer will ask you to repeat the Pledge of Commitment out loud. You will become an Australian Citizen once you make this pledge.
- Welcome as new Australian citizen

WHO CONDUCTS THE CEREMONY?

The Shire President and the Chief Executive Officer are authorised to officiate citizenship ceremonies. Usually, the Shire President and an administrative staff member will attend the ceremony.

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WHAT TO 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, or your national or cultural dress, and groomed to reflect the significance of the occasion.

ENROLLING TO VOTE

At the ceremony, we will give you an information sheet with a QR code to assist you to enrol to vote online. You may also:

- visit the AEC website to enrol online, or
- get an enrolment form at any Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office, or call the AEC to request a form.

WILL I RECEIVE MY CERTIFICATE AT THE CEREMONY?

Yes. Once the candidates have been invited and accepted the invitations to the ceremony, the Shire of Irwin is required to order the Citizenship Certificates from the Department four weeks prior to the ceremony.

WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST AN URGENT CEREMONY?

Upon application to the Shire, an urgent ceremony may be approved, subject to availability of an appropriately authorised person to officiate the ceremony. If approved, the certificate may be mailed directly to the new citizen once the ceremony outcome is confirmed.

HOW MANY GUESTS CAN I BRING TO THE CEREMONY?

There is generally no restriction on the number of guests however, prior approval is required for more than 4 adult guests.

DO I HAVE TO REMEMBER ANY SPEECH OR PLEDGE PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY?

No. When you first applied for your Australian Citizenship through the Department of Home Affairs, you would have been asked if you wanted to make an oath or affirmation pledge. The Shire of Irwin will be advised of your preference and will present you with a pledge card upon your name being called at the ceremony.

CAN I HAVE MY CEREMONY ON AUSTRALIA DAY?

Yes. To have your citizenship ceremony on Australia Day it would be appreciated if you could let the Shire of Irwin know by 24 December (a month before). You must have completed all citizenship paperwork prior to contacting the Shire of Irwin, as this allows enough time to have your citizenship certificate and other information arrive in time for Australia Day.

WHO DO I CONTACT AT THE SHIRE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

If you would like to know more about Citizenship ceremonies in the Shire of Irwin, please contact the Shire's Executive Assistant on 9927 0000 or email reception@irwin.wa.gov.au.
