

## CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY FACT SHEET

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP?

You can download an application pack from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (the Department) website – [www.citizenship.gov.au](http://www.citizenship.gov.au)

Or visit their premises -

Customer Service Centre  
Level 1, Forrest Chase  
Wellington Street  
Perth WA 6000

Or by contacting 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 Dongara Foreshore on Australia Day.

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

If over 18 years, please bring a form of identification, Drivers License, Passport etc so that we can complete the necessary form to have you added to the Electoral Roll.

### 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 and Citizenship
- Rights and obligations summary
- Pledge of commitment
- National Anthem
- 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 a staff member will attend the ceremony from the Shire.



## **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 Immigration and Border Protection, 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 to read from.

## **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.

## **WHAT ARE THE FEES TO APPLY FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP?**

The fees range from \$65 and \$240 depending on the type of Citizenship you are applying for. Fees are made payable to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Before applying applicants are advised to ring the Citizenship Information Line on 131 880 to confirm fees.

## **WHO DO I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?**

If you would like to know more about Citizenship ceremonies in the Shire of Irwin please contact Erin Greaves, Coordinator Executive Services on 9927 0002 or email [ea@irwin.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@irwin.wa.gov.au).

Please visit the Department's website [www.citizenship.wa.gov.au](http://www.citizenship.wa.gov.au) or call the Citizenship Information Line on 131 880.

