



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Australian Bravery Decorations

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Australian Bravery Decorations recognise acts of bravery by people whose selfless actions put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.

There are four levels of awards for individuals, as well as an award to recognise the bravery of a group of people involved in a single incident.

- Cross of Valour – for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril
- Star of Courage – for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril
- Bravery Medal – for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances
- Commendation for Brave Conduct – for acts of bravery considered worthy of recognition

The group award is known as the Group Bravery Citation. It is awarded for a collective act of bravery, by a group of persons in extraordinary circumstances, that is considered worthy of recognition.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Australian Citizens
- A person who is a citizen of another country and who carries out an act that may be considered worthy of recognition by Australia and in Australia's interest.

The brave act does not need to occur in Australia, provided it is considered worthy of recognition by Australia and in Australia's interest.

HOW IS IT AWARDED?

Nominations for Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) career personnel or volunteer members are considered by the DFES Honours and Awards Advisory Panel. Nominations considered worthy by the Panel are then put forward to the Australian Bravery Decorations Council who make final recommendations to the Governor-General on awarding of Australian Bravery Decorations. Recipients of Australian Bravery Decorations are announced by the Governor-General in March and August. They are entitled to use the relevant post nominals after their names to show that their bravery has been recognised. Awards may be made posthumously and presented to the next of kin.

MEDAL DESIGN

The Cross of Valour (gold), Star of Courage (silver) and Bravery Medal (bronze) each have ribbons of different combinations of magenta and blood-red, symbolising the colours of venous and arterial blood. The Commendation for Brave conduct is mounted on a ribbon of plain arterial red colour. The Group Bravery Citation is a device which has a raised bronze sprig of wattle, centrally positioned on a silver rectangle.



Australian Government



WHAT IS THE MEDAL AWARDED FOR?

Australian Bravery Decorations recognise people who, without thought of personal risk, displayed courage and bravery to protect or defend others. Acts involving the preservation of life, for example first aid, while admirable, may not be considered brave.

PREPARING A NOMINATION

When preparing an Australian Bravery Decorations nomination the following information is required:

- Description of the incident, including date, time and location of the incident
- Conditions of the incident (particularly if unusual or dangerous)
- Summary of the rescue efforts, including any elements of risk to the rescuer
- Actions of the person you are nominating, and the reasons why you consider he or she should receive special recognition by the award of an Australian Bravery Decoration.
- If available, details of persons/eyewitnesses who are able to make direct comment on the incident.
- If available, photographs of the incident or of the place where it occurred. Additionally, any media articles and web links that provide further information and details of the incident.

SUBMITTING YOUR NOMINATION

Nominations can be submitted at any time throughout the year. Nominations received before April of a given year will be considered for the March Bravery List of the following year. Similarly, nominations received before October of a given year will be considered for the August Bravery List of the following year.

To submit a nomination please visit dfes.wa.gov.au/australianhonours

An acknowledgment will be forwarded to the nominator once the nomination has been received. All completed nominations will be treated as confidential.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have any questions or need help preparing or submitting a nomination, please contact the Honours and Awards Officer at rewards@dfes.wa.gov.au or on 9395 9732.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information about Australian Bravery Decorations is available on the website of [The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia](https://www.governor.gov.au/).