

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES – FAQ

Do I have to attend the ceremony? Can I just collect my certificate or have it mailed out?

You will not become an Australian Citizen until you have made the Pledge of Commitment in the presence of the Mayor or an authorised officer.

When and where are citizenship ceremonies held?

The Adelaide Plains Council holds up to four Citizenship Ceremonies each year, pending applicants.

- 26 January – Australia Day
- 21 March – Harmony Day
- 9 July – Constitution Day
- 17 September – Australian Citizenship Day

With the exception of Australia Day, where any of these dates fall on a weekend, the ceremony will be held on the next working day and ceremonies will be held in the Mallala or Two Wells Council Chambers. Guests are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and Ceremonies usually take around 30 minutes, after which light refreshments are served.

How can I find out when my citizenship ceremony will be?

The Department of Home Affairs is responsible for the allocation of recipients to Citizenship Ceremonies. The Adelaide Plains Council only receives listings of allocated recipients before each ceremony.

For any information regarding your allocation to a ceremony you need to contact Home Affairs by phone: 131 880

What is the waiting time for a ceremony?

The waiting period for a citizenship ceremony is approximately three to six months after you have received your approval letter from the Department of Home Affairs.

When will I receive notification confirming my ceremony?

The Adelaide Plains Council will send an invitation to you approximately two to four weeks before your ceremony date.

Do I need to bring anything to the ceremony?

Yes. Recipients aged 16 years or older must bring photographic identification such as a current driver's licence or passport. We suggest that you also bring your invitation to help with the registration process.

Will I receive my certificate at the ceremony?

In most cases, recipients are presented with their Australian Citizenship Certificate upon taking their pledge. If your certificate is not available, the Department of Home Affairs will post it to you.

Do children need to attend citizenship ceremonies?

Children aged 16 years and over are legally required to attend their citizenship ceremony and take the citizenship pledge to become an Australian citizen. Children under the age of 16 are not legally

required to take the citizenship pledge. However, they are encouraged to take the citizenship pledge where possible.

What do I do if I cannot attend this ceremony?

Contact the Adelaide Plains Council as soon as possible and advise of your inability to attend. You will be reallocated to the next ceremony or alternative options will be determined.

What is the difference between pledge one and pledge two?

There are two variations of the citizenship pledge:

The Oath pledge which refers to God

The Affirmation pledge which does not.

How many guests can I bring to the ceremony?

The Adelaide Plains Council encourages recipients to bring family and friends to share this special day, but request that you advise prior to attendance the number of expected guests to ensure sufficient refreshments are available.

What is the dress code for the ceremony?

Citizenship Ceremonies are an important event and the attire should reflect the significance of the occasion. Recipients and their guests should be dressed in semi-formal, smart casual or business attire. National or traditional dress is also welcome.

Does the Council provide a photographer at these ceremonies?

The Adelaide Plains Council does not provide a photographer at its citizenship ceremonies. However, recipients and guests are invited to bring their cameras along and are welcome to take photos. The Presiding Member will also be available for photographs following the ceremony.

Is it possible to arrange a ceremony earlier than the standard waiting time?

In exceptional circumstances, additional ceremonies may be held at the discretion of Council. In addition, the Department of Home Affairs can include you in an urgent ceremony at their premises, for more information please contact them via phone 131 880.

Does Council accept citizenship recipients from outside the Adelaide Plains Council region?

Council **may** accept recipients from outside its boundaries, please contact Council to discuss further.

I have lost my citizenship certificate, what should I do?

If you have lost your citizenship certificate, you will need to fill in Form 119 - application for evidence of Australian citizenship from the Home Affairs website or alternatively you can contact Home Affairs via phone 131 880.

The Adelaide Plains Council cannot issue or replace citizenship certificates.