



Community Programs

Certificates of Appreciation

Purpose

This fact sheet describes Certificates of Appreciation, who is eligible to receive them and how the certificates may be obtained.

What are Certificates of Appreciation?

Certificates of Appreciation are available under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations program. They are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served in the defence forces or on the home front in World War II or in wars, conflicts and peace operations overseas since World War II.

They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements under the *Veterans Entitlements Act 1986* or the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

What Certificates are available?

Certificates of Appreciation are available in respect of the following conflicts and events:

- World War II, for service in the Australian armed forces or on the home front
- British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) Japan
- Korean War
- Malayan Emergency
- Indonesian Confrontation
- Vietnam War
- Gulf War
- Peace Operations

Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

Who can apply?

- veterans and those who served in the wars and conflicts for which certificates are available
- next of kin of deceased eligible persons
- family members or friends on behalf of eligible persons

What service qualifies for a Certificate of Appreciation?

World War II

- Service in the Australian armed forces or merchant navy, overseas or in Australia, between 3 September 1939 and 15 August 1945
- Contribution on the home front in war related industries, protected occupations, philanthropic organisations and other voluntary positions which assisted Australia's war efforts between 3 September 1939 and 15 August 1945

Home front services qualifies for a Certificate of Appreciation for World War II as this was a period of national mobilisation, and there was direct and widespread civilian involvement in supporting the war effort.

BCOF (Japan)

- Service with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan between 2 September 1945 and 28 April 1952

Korean War

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Korea between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1953

Note: Service in Korea from 9 June 1950 until 23 June 1950 and from 28 July 1953 until the present time qualifies for the Peace Operations Certificate of Appreciation.

Malayan Emergency

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Malaya/Malaysia or Singapore between 29 June 1950 and 31 July 1960

Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

What service qualifies for a Certificate of Appreciation?, *continued*

- Service in the Far Eastern Strategic Reserve (FESR) between 2 July 1955 and 31 July 1960
- Service with Australia's armed forces in the Malaysian States of Kedah, Perlis, Perak and Kelantan from 1 August 1960 until 16 August 1964 in accordance with Schedule 2 of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and for which the *Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975* with the clasp *Thai/Malay* has been awarded.

Indonesian Confrontation

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei between 8 December 1962 and 11 August 1966

Vietnam War

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Vietnam between 31 July 1962 and 11 January 1973
- Service with Australian logistics support (for example, RAN ships and Qantas charter crews carrying troops and supplies to and from Vietnam, Red Cross, Salvation Army workers, medical staff and civilian entertainers supporting Australian service personnel in Vietnam) between 31 July 1962 and 11 January 1973

Gulf War

- Service with Australia's armed forces in the Gulf War between 1 August 1990 and 30 September 1991

Peace Operations

Service in one or more of Australia's commitments to multinational peace operations since 1947. These include peace building; preventive diplomacy; peacemaking; peacekeeping; and peace enforcement. Definitions of these operations may be found at <http://www.defence.gov.au/adfwc/peacekeeping/terminology.htm>

Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

Additional information on eligibility for Gulf War and Peace Operations Certificates of Appreciation

GULF WAR

Evidence of service for this certificate will be the *Australian Active Service Medal* with the clasp – *Kuwait*. Care should be taken not to confuse this medal with the *Australian Service Medal*, also with the clasp – *Kuwait*. Recipients of this medal qualify for the Peace Operations Certificate of Appreciation.

PEACE OPERATIONS

Evidence of service for this certificate will be the following medals:

Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with clasps:

- Berlin
- Indonesia
- Kashmir
- Korea
- Middle East
- West New Guinea

Australian Service Medal with clasps:

- Balkans
- Bougainville
- Cambodia
- East Timor
- Ethiopia/Eritrea
- Guatemala
- Iran/Iraq
- Kashmir
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Middle East
- Mozambique
- Peshawar
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Sinai
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- Uganda
- West Sahara

Australian Active Service Medal with clasps:

- Balkans
- Cambodia
- East Timor
- ICAT
- Namibia
- Somalia
- Vietnam 1975

Rhodesia Medal

United Nations Medal

Police Overseas Service Medal

Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

When are certificates NOT available?

Certificates are **NOT** available for:

- Boer War and World War I
 - Certificates are designed primarily for living veterans to express the nation's gratitude for their service. The number of surviving veterans of conflicts other than World War I is such that the primary purpose of personal recognition is maintained. Almost all World War I veterans are now deceased and cannot be personally recognised.
 - Surviving World War I veterans have been formally recognised with a medal specific to their service by the Federal Government under the Australian Honours and Awards system.

- National Servicemen
 - Certificates are event-based and do not relate to forms of enlistment such as national service.
 - National servicemen were recognised in 2001 through the issue of the Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951-1972. (Application is through the Department of Defence.)

- Defence Reserve Forces
 - Certificates are event-based and do not relate to forms of enlistment such as reserve forces.
 - Reserves service may be recognised, if certain criteria are met, through the issue of the Reserve Force Medal. (Application is through the Department of Defence.)
 - Personnel who served in one of the eight events for which Certificates of Appreciation are available may qualify for that certificate.

What evidence of service is required?

- Service Record showing service in the relevant period and, for post World War II certificates, service in the relevant country during the period of conflict, or
- Service Record showing eligibility for medal(s) for the relevant conflict, or
- Medal(s) for the relevant conflicts, inscribed with the veteran's name and service number (on the rim or reverse), or photograph(s) of inscribed medals, or

Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

What evidence of service is required? *continued*

- Copies of entries from the World War II (www.ww2roll.gov.au), Korean War and Vietnam War Nominal Rolls; or
- in the case of applicants for a World War II certificate, evidence or a Statutory Declaration attesting to service on the home front.

In the case of home front service, applicants may not be able to produce supporting documentation. In these circumstances, a statement detailing their contribution should be accepted.

How are applications submitted?

- Application forms are available from Federal MPs' offices, DVA Offices or can be downloaded from *DVA Forms* on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website, www.dva.gov.au.
- Applicants should complete the application form and submit this to their Federal Member.

Eligibility is decided by the Federal Member, in accordance with these guidelines.

How are Certificates issued?

Only one certificate per conflict should be issued in relation to a person's service.

The Federal Member inserts the veteran's name and his/her own name in the spaces provided, and signs the certificate. The certificate may be presented personally by the Member or posted.

Where can more information be obtained?

Enquiries about eligibility should be directed to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Commemorations Group telephone 02 6289 6597, email commemorations@dva.gov.au or facsimile 02 6289 4849.

All DVA fact sheets are available on request from any DVA office or on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au/factsheets/default.htm.

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Where can more information be obtained?, *continued*

If you need more information about this topic, contact your nearest DVA office or visit the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au;

DVA telephone numbers:

General Inquiries	133 254
Connects callers from anywhere to their capital city State Office.	
Non-metropolitan Callers	1800 555 254
Connects non-metropolitan callers only to the capital city State Office.	
Dialling from interstate	1300 13 1945
Allows callers to contact any State office via a series of voice prompts.	
Local Veterans' Affairs Network (VAN) offices	1300 55 1918
Connects callers with their nearest VAN office.	

Note: *If you use a mobile phone, calls may be more costly. You are advised to use a normal phone (i.e. a landline phone) when ringing these numbers.