



## Community Programs

### Certificates of Appreciation

#### Overview

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 the Second World War or in wars, conflicts and peace operations overseas since the Second World War. They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* or the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*.

#### What Certificates are available?

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

- Second World War, 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
- Iraq War
- Peace Operations

#### 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?

##### ***Second World War***

- 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 the Second World War as this was a period of national mobilisation, and there was direct and widespread civilian involvement in supporting the war effort.

## Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

### ***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
- 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.

### ***Iraq War***

- Service with Australia's armed forces in Iraq or the Persian Gulf between 18 March 2003 and 28 July 2009.

### ***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/jwdtc/peacekeeping/terminology.htm>.

# Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

## Additional information on eligibility for Gulf War, Iraq 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.

### **IRAQ WAR**

Evidence of service for this certificate will be the Australian Active Service Medal with the clasp – Iraq 2003.

### **PEACE OPERATIONS**

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

Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with clasps:

- Berlin
- FESR
- Indonesia
- Kashmir
- Korea
- Middle East
- South East Asia
- Thailand (for service in Ubon)
- West New Guinea

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with clasps:

- Thailand (for service in Ubon)

Australian Service Medal with clasps:

- Balkans
- Bougainville
- Cambodia
- East Timor
- Ethiopia/Eritrea
- Guatemala
- Iran/Iraq
- Kashmir
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Middle East
- Mozambique
- Peshawar
- Sierra Leone
- Sinai
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South East Asia
- Special Ops
- Timor-Leste
- Uganda
- Western Sahara

Australian Active Service Medal with clasps:

- Balkans
- Cambodia
- East Timor
- ICAT
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- 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 the First World War
  - 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 the First World War is such that the primary purpose of personal recognition is maintained. All Australian First World War veterans are now deceased and cannot be personally recognised.
- 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.)
  - National servicemen who served in Vietnam are eligible for that certificate.
- Defence Reserve Forces
  - Certificates are event-based and do not relate to forms of enlistment such as reserve forces
  - Reserve 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 nine 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 Second World War 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
- Copies of entries from the Second World War ([www.ww2roll.gov.au](http://www.ww2roll.gov.au)), Korean War ([www.koreanroll.gov.au](http://www.koreanroll.gov.au)) and Vietnam War ([www.vietnamroll.gov.au](http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au)) Nominal Rolls; or
- in the case of applicants for a Second World War 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.**

# Certificates of Appreciation, *continued*

## How are applications submitted?

- Application forms are available from Federal MPs' offices, DVA Offices or can be downloaded from the Department of Veterans' Affairs website at <http://www.dva.gov.au/dvaforms>
- 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.

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this Factsheet is general in nature and does not take into account individual circumstances. You should not make important decisions, such as those that affect your financial or lifestyle position, on the basis of information contained in this Factsheet. Where you are required to lodge a written claim for a benefit, you must take full responsibility for your decisions prior to the written claim being determined. You should seek confirmation in writing of any oral advice you receive from DVA relating to complex or important matters.

## 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](mailto:commemorations@dva.gov.au) or facsimile 02 6289 4849.

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au).

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for country callers.

Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

You can send an email to DVA at: [generalenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:generalenquiries@dva.gov.au)

You can get more help from any DVA office.