Replacement Medals Policy

Service awards are issued by the Australian Government to an individual in appreciation and recognition of a particular Australian Defence Force service. For an individual, awards are a personal symbol of service and sacrifice that can be worn with pride on appropriate occasions. Sometimes, an award may be lost, stolen or damaged. In these circumstances, subject to the conditions given below, replacement of these awards may be made.

Living recipients

1. Living recipients of medals are entitled to one replacement set, where medals have been lost in circumstances beyond the control of the holder of the medals.
2. Replacement awards will not be provided until a period of two months has lapsed from the date of the loss to allow adequate time for recovery.
3. Only awards that can be returned to the Directorate (eg broken or damaged) will be issued as Original. Medals that cannot be returned will be engraved with a ‘D’ for Duplicate.

Deceased recipients

1. Replacements can be requested for losses since 1 December 1974.
2. Lost or destroyed medals for deceased recipients can be replaced where medals have been lost in circumstances beyond the control of the holder of the medals.
3. Defence will only replace service medals it has authority to issue from within the Imperial and Australian Honours systems.
4. Replacement awards will not be provided until a period of two months has lapsed from the date of the loss to allow adequate time for recovery.
5. Only awards that can be returned to the Directorate (eg broken or damaged) will be issued as Original. Medals that cannot be returned will be engraved with a ‘D’ for Duplicate.

How do I apply for replacement medals?

To apply for replacement medals, please go to www.defence.gov.au/medals/ and complete the Defence Medals Online Application Form, selecting Replacement Medals as the application type. Applicants will be asked to certify that they were the holder of the medals at the time of the loss/damage, that the loss/damage occurred after 1 December 1974 and that no compensation has been received and that, in the event of a free replacement being made, no such compensation will be claimed.
How do I purchase replica medals?

Replica medals are available from medal dealers or commercial military memorabilia outlets. Many of these replicas are high quality and can be difficult to distinguish from the originals.

To request a list of your relative’s entitled awards, please go to www.defence.gov.au/medals/ and complete the Defence Medals Online Application Form, selecting List of Previous Awards as the application type.

Replacement of Australian decorations

If you are seeking replacement of an Australian Gallantry, Distinguished Service, Conspicuous Service, Bravery or Order of Australia decoration, please contact Government House.

The Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat
Government House
CANBERRA  ACT  2611
P: 02 6283 3603 or 1800 552 275 (toll free number within Australia)

Replacement of foreign awards

An award bestowed by a foreign government will not be replaced, except in the case of a campaign award issued by the Australian Government acting on behalf of the foreign power. The only awards in this category are:

- The United Nations Service Medal Korea, and
- The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

For further information on matters relating to honours and awards, please contact 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362).