How do I apply for medals?
If you would like further information on eligibility or to ascertain what medals have been previously awarded or remain unissued, please complete an online application form at www.defence.gov.au/medals.

How do I apply for replacement medals?
Current and former serving members may apply for replacement medals if they have been lost or damaged. Defence Honours and Awards can only provide replacement medals for deceased individuals in very specific circumstances.

Please refer to www.defence.gov.au/medals for more information on the policy and to complete an online application form.

Can I wear my relative’s medals?
Although not officially sanctioned, a protocol has been accepted that family members of a deceased recipient may wear that person’s medals on commemorative occasions such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

In these circumstances, the medals should be worn on the right to show that the wearer is not the original recipient.

The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards
Information on the wearing of Australian Orders, Decorations and Medals is determined by The Queen. A list outlining the order of precedence for wearing these is published on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet website www.dpmc.gov.au/government/its-honour.

Are you researching your family’s military history?
These links may assist you.

(medal information including Order of Wear)

www.gg.gov.au
(Office of the Governor-General)

www.naa.gov.au
(National Archives of Australia)

www.awm.gov.au
(Australian War Memorial)

www.dva.gov.au
(Department of Veterans’ Affairs)

(Accessing your ADF Record)

(World War 2 Nominal Roll)

www.rsl.org.au
(Returned and Services League of Australia)

www.mod.uk
(UK Ministry of Defence)

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk
(Veterans UK)
Did you know?

Australians have been volunteering for Military Service since 1860. Recognition for this service was made under the Imperial Honours and Awards System. Later, the Australian Honours and Awards System was introduced which Defence issues medallion recognition from today.

The Australian Honours and Awards System

On 14 February 1975, The Queen established the Order of Australia, the Australian Bravery Decorations and the National Medal, the first three elements of a unique Australian Honours and Awards System.

From very small beginnings, the Australian Honours and Awards System has grown into the extensive and sophisticated system it is today. The system recognises and rewards endeavour in all fields of operational and non-operational military service, and achievement and service to the community by individuals, including through a wide range of organisations such as police, ambulance, fire and emergency services.

The Role of Her Majesty The Queen

Queen Elizabeth II, the Sovereign, is the ultimate authority for the approval of Australian Honours and Awards. Medals are created by Royal Warrant or Letters Patent.

The Role of the Governor-General

The Governor-General is The Queen’s representative in Australia. Through the Honours Secretariat based at Government House, Canberra, the Governor-General has prime responsibility for the administration of honours and awards on behalf of the Sovereign.

The Governor-General signs administrative documents such as Instruments of Declaration and Determination under relevant medal regulations. The Governor-General also approves each individual honour and award, except for the Victoria Cross for Australia.

The Role of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Prime Minister is responsible for advising The Queen and the Governor-General on matters relating to the honours system as a whole. All new awards are established on the Prime Minister’s recommendation. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet supports the Prime Minister in these system-wide roles. The Department is also responsible, with Government House, for promotion of the Australian honours system, principally through its website www.dpmc.gov.au/government/its-honour.

The Role of Defence Honours & Awards

Defence Honours and Awards assesses applications and issues current and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force with appropriate recognition for their military service.

Defence Honours and Awards also coordinates nominations and recommendations for Defence awards announced in the annual Queen’s Birthday and Australia Day Honours lists.

The Process of Awarding

Upon receipt of an application, Defence Honours and Awards will conduct a comprehensive assessment, including accessing the member’s service records, to determine qualifying service. If eligibility cannot be determined, Defence Honours and Awards will contact the applicant for clarification or to seek additional information.

Once eligibility is determined, Defence Honours and Awards will seek approval for the award, and coordinate the engraving and dispatch.

This process may take up to 12 weeks. However, in peak periods such as around ANZAC day, delays can be experienced.

The Role of Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal is a statutory independent body that considers issues arising in the area of Defence honours and awards.

Further information is available on the Tribunal’s website www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au