



Replacement of damaged, lost and stolen medals

Since the First World War, service medals have been issued to individuals in appreciation and recognition of Australian Defence Force service. Medals are a personal symbol of service and sacrifice that can be worn with pride. Sometimes, an award may be damaged, lost or stolen. In these circumstances, replacement of these awards may be issued.

When medals have been damaged, lost or stolen while in possession of the eligible recipient (the serving or ex-serving member) they may be replaced.

People who are in possession of a deceased relatives' medals (the 'holder'), may also have those medals replaced if they are damaged, lost or stolen. And if the occurrence took place after 1 December 1974.

Circumstances that may result in medal replacement could include, but are not limited to:

- Stolen during a burglary of your home;
- Lost whilst moving house;
- Lost after falling off during an Anzac Day parade; or
- Destroyed/Damaged during a fire, flood or natural disaster.

What if my medals are damaged but not lost?

Damaged medals that **can** be returned to Defence, or those that have been lost in a natural disaster, will be re-issued as originals.

Medals that **cannot** be returned to Defence will be re-issued and engraved with a 'D' for duplicate following the member's name and service number.

How do I apply for replacement medals?

Search *Defence Medals* online and complete the Defence Medals Online Application Form, selecting **Replacement Medals** as the application type. Ensure that you include details relating to the loss or damage of the medals in the **Supporting Information** section on page 4 of the form.

When applying as the 'holder', please provide the member's name, date of birth and basic service details if known, ensuring to also include your contact details and Defence will do the rest.



Damaged, lost and stolen medals can be replaced.

Which medals can be replaced?

Defence can replace service and campaign medals from both the Imperial and Australian Honours Systems, which have been issued from the First World War to current operations.

The National Medal, Honours and Decorations, such as the Conspicuous Service Medal or Distinguished Service Cross, **cannot** be replaced by Defence. These are administered by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat at Government House. Visit www.gq.gov.au for more information. Honours bestowed under the Imperial Honour System **cannot** be replaced.

Foreign awards, bestowed by a foreign government, **will not** be replaced by Defence 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
- The Saudi Arabian Liberation of Kuwait Medal

How do I purchase replica medals?

Replica medals are available from medal dealers or commercial military memorabilia outlets. Replicas can often be indistinguishable from Defence issued medals, and can be a good option for displaying medals, or wearing at commemorative events such as Anzac Day.

To request a list of your relative's entitled awards, search *Defence Medals* online and complete the Defence Medals Online Application Form, selecting **List of Previous Awards** as the application type.



Pictured left: Then Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell DSC, AM, (left), and Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army, Warrant Officer Don Spinks, OAM (right), present a set of replacement medals to Second World War veteran Mr Vic Lederer, 13 August 2016.

For further information on matters relating to honours and awards, please contact 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) or search *Defence Medals* online.