

How to become an Australian citizen

Becoming an Australian citizen is an important step in your migration story. You are choosing to make an ongoing commitment to Australia and all that Australia stands for.

To apply for citizenship, you need to contact the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). The cost is around \$260 per person. Applications can be made online or by phoning the citizenship information line on 131 880 (8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday). The DIBP can help answer any questions you have about the application process.

Once you have placed your application, you can access its progress via the [website](#). **No information on the process and timelines of your application is available from the City of Kwinana until after your application has been approved.**

Once your application has been approved, you will receive a letter from the DIBP.

When the City of Kwinana receives your information from the DIBP (usually about two weeks after your application has been approved), a place will be allocated to you to attend the next available ceremony. The waiting period for a ceremony is around eight to 10 weeks.

When we've arranged a date for your ceremony, you'll receive a letter to notify you. The ceremonies are usually held on an evening during the week at 5:30pm. We'll give you around four weeks' notice. If you're unable to attend, please let us know and you'll be moved you to the next available date.

At the City of Kwinana, our citizenship ceremonies are special events conducted by the Mayor where applicants are required to make the Australian citizenship pledge. This is the final step in the journey to becoming an Australian citizen.

Important information:

Ceremonies are closed off at least four weeks before the ceremony date to allow time for invitations to be posted and certificates ordered from Immigration in Canberra. We may close off a ceremony earlier if numbers have reached maximum capacity.

Frequently asked questions:

Q: How often do you hold your ceremonies?

A: The City of Kwinana holds a citizenship ceremony once a month.

Q: I have received my approval letter - can I book into a ceremony?

A: Immigration sends approval data to the City once every two weeks. We cannot confirm your ceremony date without your approval details being received from immigration. Once received, we'll allocate you the next available ceremony date and an invitation will be posted to you around four weeks before.

Q: I can't attend the ceremony I have been invited to. Can I reschedule?

A: Yes. We can move you to the next available ceremony.

Q: Can I have an urgent ceremony (for passports/HECs/job applications)?

A: Private ceremonies with the Mayor are only granted in special circumstances and are considered on a case-by-case basis. Enquiries can be made to the Functions Officer on 9439 0205 or citizenship.enquiry@kwinana.wa.gov.au.

Q: I live in another local government area. Can I have my ceremony at Kwinana?

A: No. We can only accommodate Kwinana residents.

Q: I am a fly-in/fly-out worker. How can I arrange a date for my ceremony?

A: We do our best to accommodate fly-in/fly-out workers and people who are travelling. To discuss your situation, please contact the Functions Officer on 9439 0205 or citizenship.enquiry@kwinana.wa.gov.au.

Q: How long will it take to get a passport?

A: If you need a passport, a passport application can be lodged at your local post office after you receive your citizenship certificate at the ceremony. It takes around 14 working days and requires a separate application form that you can get from your local post office.

Q: I have lost my citizenship certificate

A: If you have lost your certificate and need evidence of your Australian citizenship, you must call the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 131 881. They will send you an application for Evidence of Citizenship. The cost for this is around \$60 per person.