

Affirmation ceremonies are conducted by an appropriate Australian citizen, often for relatives and friends of new citizens following a citizenship ceremony, or at special occasions where affirming loyalty to Australia and its people is appropriate. Unlike citizenship ceremonies, affirmation ceremonies have no effect in law.

Holding Affirmation Ceremonies

Affirmation cards, with the words of the affirmation, should be placed on seats or handed to guests as they arrive. This will allow members of the audience to consider in advance whether they wish to make the affirmation, and to become familiar with the words of the affirmation. Affirmation cards are available from State and Territory offices of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

The affirmation ceremony should be foreshadowed at the beginning of the function or citizenship ceremony, again to allow those present to consider whether they wish to participate. It should be made clear that participation is voluntary and that recitation of the affirmation has no legal effect.

To conduct the affirmation ceremony, the ceremony host (or Presiding Officer) should invite all Australians who wish to publicly affirm their commitment to Australia and its people, to stand in their place and join in repeating the affirmation. Non-citizens should be invited to join in at the second line.

The Australian Citizenship Affirmation reads

As an Australian citizen,
I affirm my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect,
and whose laws I uphold and obey.

For further information please contact the Citizenship Information Line on 131 880 or visit our website at www.citizenship.gov.au



Australians all let us rejoice



Guidelines for Australian Citizenship Affirmation Ceremonies

What is an Australian Citizenship Affirmation?

An Australian Citizenship Affirmation is a statement all Australians can make to affirm their loyalty and commitment to Australia and its people, and can be made at an affirmation ceremony.

What is an Affirmation Ceremony?

An affirmation ceremony is a short ceremony where all Australians are given the opportunity to publicly affirm their loyalty and commitment to Australia and its people.

The affirmation is based on the Australian Citizenship Pledge made by citizenship candidates at citizenship ceremonies when they become Australian citizens.



Affirmation ceremonies increase awareness of Australian citizenship, promote community involvement and participation, and help people feel that they belong to their community. They can also help build pride in Australians about their citizenship.

Who can hold an Affirmation Ceremony?

Affirmation ceremonies may be conducted by community organisations, schools and local government councils at special events—such as special community meetings, functions or festivals—or as part of celebrations for other special occasions such as Australia Day (26 January), Harmony Day (21 March) or Australian Citizenship Day (17 September).

For local government councils, affirmation ceremonies can readily and easily be incorporated in citizenship ceremonies.

Who can participate in an Affirmation Ceremony?

Everyone is welcome and participation is voluntary.

Many Australians would not have had an opportunity to declare their commitment to Australia and its people at a citizenship ceremony because they were born in Australia.

Some overseas born Australian citizens have previously had the opportunity to pledge their commitment as Australian citizens at citizenship ceremonies. They may, however, wish to join in and affirm their loyalty to Australia and its people.



There are also many Australians who, although not yet Australian citizens, consider Australia their home. They too may wish to express their loyalty to Australia and show their support for the values that go with Australian citizenship.

Who can conduct an Affirmation Ceremony?

Because affirmation ceremonies are significant occasions, conveying important symbolism they should be conducted with meaning and dignity.

Affirmation ceremonies may be conducted by a person of some standing in the community or school, for example an official guest, leader within the community, federal or state/territory parliamentarian or other appropriate person. For local government councils incorporating an affirmation ceremony into a citizenship ceremony, the affirmation ceremony may be conducted by the Presiding Officer or other appropriate community representative.

Persons conducting affirmation ceremonies should be Australian citizens.

Legal status of Affirmation Ceremonies

These ceremonies have no status in law and no legal effect. No records on participants are required by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

People taking part in affirmation ceremonies are not required to prove their Australian residence or citizenship status. To avoid confusion with official Australian citizenship certificates, no certificate should be given to people who affirm their Australian citizenship.



What is the difference between an Affirmation Ceremony and an Australian Citizenship Ceremony?

Citizenship ceremonies are generally held by local government councils to confer Australian citizenship on permanent residents in Australia approved for the grant of Australian citizenship under the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948 (the Act)*. These ceremonies serve to fulfil legal requirements prescribed by the Act and are conducted by Presiding Officers approved by the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs.