

Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony

Tuesday, 28 November 2023
Council

Strategic Alignment - Thriving Communities

Program Contact:
Chief Executive Officer

Public

Approving Officer:
Clare Mockler, Chief Executive
Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Citizenship ceremonies are public, ceremonial occasions, which fulfil legal requirements prescribed by the *Citizenship Act 2007* and the Australian Citizenship Regulation 2016. Citizenship ceremonies also provide an important opportunity to formally welcome new citizens as full members of the Australian community.

Local government councils, including the City of Adelaide, conduct the majority of citizenship ceremonies on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs which manages the Citizenship Program.

It is Australian Government policy that citizenship ceremonies are held at regular intervals throughout a calendar year and that councils must hold a ceremony on Australia Day, or the three days prior or the three days after Australia Day.

The City of Adelaide held this ceremony from 2014 to 2019 inclusive on 25 January or 23 January. Due to a Federal Government directive, the ceremonies in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were required to be held on Australia Day. Whilst this directive was changed in December 2022 to provide greater flexibility for the Australia Day citizenship ceremony to be held on or around 26 January, the 2023 ceremony hosted by the City of Adelaide was held on Australia Day.

Presentation of the City of Adelaide Citizen of the Year Awards is also included as part of this citizenship ceremony.

To enable citizenship recipients, Citizen of the Year Awardees and Corporation staff, and contractors engaged to support delivery of the ceremony to celebrate the Australia Day public holiday with family and friends the ceremony will be held on Thursday 24 January 2024.

The practice of holding the citizenship ceremony linked to Australia Day and presentation of Citizen of the Year Awards on the closest standard working week day to the Australia Day public holiday will be followed for future years.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the City of Adelaide hosting the citizenship ceremony linked to Australia Day 2024 and presentation of Citizen of the Year Awards on Thursday 25 January 2024.
2. Notes the practice of holding the citizenship ceremony linked to Australia Day and presentation of Citizen of the Year Awards on the closest standard working week day to the Australia Day public holiday will be followed for future years.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Thriving Communities
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Conduct of Citizenship ceremonies is in accord with the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code prepared by the Australian Government
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
23/24 Budget Allocation	Funding of \$44,000 is included within the approved 2023/24 Business Plan and Budget for hosting Citizenship Ceremonies and Citizen of the Year Awards. Holding the citizenship ceremony linked to Australia Day on a standard work week day will save approximately \$5,000.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. Citizenship ceremonies are public, ceremonial occasions, which fulfil legal requirements prescribed by the *Citizenship Act 2007* and the Australian Citizenship Regulation 2016. Citizenship ceremonies also provide an important opportunity to formally welcome new citizens as full members of the Australian community.
2. Local government councils, including the City of Adelaide, conduct the majority of citizenship ceremonies in accord with the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs who manage the Citizenship Program.
3. It is Australian Government policy that citizenship ceremonies are held at regular intervals throughout a calendar year and that councils must hold a ceremony on Australia Day, or the three days prior or the three days after Australia Day.
4. Previously, the City of Adelaide has hosted this citizenship ceremony on Australia Day, 26 January and also on the immediately preceding standard working week day.
5. The City of Adelaide Citizen of the Year Awards will also be presented as part of the ceremony.

Discussion

6. The citizenship ceremonies linked to Australia Day hosted by the City of Adelaide in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 were held on 25 January with the 2015 event being held on 23 January.
7. At the directive of the former Federal Government, the citizenship ceremonies linked to Australia Day in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were required to be held on Australia Day.
8. Whilst this directive was changed by the current Federal Government in late 2022 to allow the ceremony to be held three days prior to or three days after Australia Day, the 2023 ceremony was held on 26 January 2023.
9. To enable citizenship recipients, Citizen of the Year Awardees and Corporation staff, and contractors engaged to support delivery of the ceremony to celebrate the Australia Day public holiday with family and friends the citizenship ceremony linked to Australia Day will be held on Thursday 24 January 2024.
10. The practice of holding the citizenship ceremony linked to Australia Day and presentation of Citizen of the Year Awards on the closest standard working week day to the Australia Day public holiday will be followed for future years.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -