



**THE HON DAVID COLEMAN MP  
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP AND  
MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code**

Dear Mayor,

We as a nation truly value our Australian citizenship. Whether you are Australian by birth or choose to settle here, Australian citizenship is at the heart of who we are and what we believe as a nation.

Every Australia Day, Australians in huge numbers celebrate our success as a nation at the many events organised by Local Government Councils across the country. These celebrations often include citizenship ceremonies, with more than 73,000 people choosing this special day to take the formal pledge of commitment to Australia in the past five years. Australia Day is by far the most popular day of the year for people to attend a citizenship ceremony.

For some time now the Australian Government has been reviewing the *Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code*. As a result of this review, I am proposing changes to the Code, to ensure it reflects the expectations of the Australian community and provides clear guidance to Councils on hosting citizenship ceremonies.

Key changes are outlined below.

- Local Government Councils will be required to hold a citizenship ceremony on Australia Day (26 January) and Australian Citizenship Day (17 September).
- Federal members of Parliament, if attending a ceremony, should read the Minister's message at citizenship ceremonies.
- There will be a recommended standard of dress for ceremonies, which will be set by Councils. The attire of attendees at citizenship ceremonies should reflect the significance of the occasion. Conferees may wear national or cultural dress if they wish.
- Ceremonies must be scheduled to avoid parliamentary sitting days.

In recognition of the vital role of local government in the delivery of citizenship ceremonies, I am seeking your feedback on the revised Code. Please send all feedback to [natoceremonies@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:natoceremonies@homeaffairs.gov.au) by **28 February 2019**.

I am pleased that a vast majority of Councils already hold citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day, as they are always great events. Eligible migrants across the country

should be afforded the opportunity to become an Australian citizen on our national day.

Thank you for the job done by your Council in supporting citizenship ceremonies and I look forward to receiving your responses to the proposed changes to the Code.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Coleman

14/01/2019