



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

*Australia Celebrating Australians*

## Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945

The Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 recognises the service of civilians in Australia during World War II.

The medal is for civilians who served in arduous circumstances in support of the war effort as part of organisations with military-like arrangements and conditions of service.

### About the award

The Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 recognises the service of Australian civilians who worked in organisations such as the Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA), the Civil Constructional Corps and the Red Cross Emergency Service Companies during World War II.

The medal was introduced on the recommendation of the Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence-related Awards.

The Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 was established on 28 October 1994 by Letters Patent.

### How it is awarded

The Governor-General awards the Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 on the recommendation of the Prime Minister or delegate.

Recipients must have served for a qualifying period in any one or a combination of the 38 eligible groups between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945.

### Past recipient story

Peggy Williams joined the AWLA in July 1942. Her job was to help feed the nation during World War II.

The dawn-to-dusk farm regime was arduous but the spirit amongst the women was strong.

Peggy Williams campaigned for public recognition of members of the AWLA following the war and was one of the first people to receive the Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945.



*The Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 is bronze and portrays the Southern Cross surrounded by golden wattle, Australia's floral emblem.*

### Medal design

The Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945 is bronze and portrays the Southern Cross surrounded by golden wattle, Australia's floral emblem.

The Southern Cross represents Australia and the golden wattle represents the civil population joining in defence of the country.

### Medal ribbon

The medal ribbon has three vertical bands. The central band is ochre to represent the soil of Australia. The two outer bands are green for the land and food production. The two white stripes on the ribbon represent communication and construction.

### Fast facts

**POST NOMINAL:** None

**INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:**  
1994

**NUMBER AWARDED:**  
6711 as at June 2006

**NOMINATIONS:**

Nominations are put forward by the responsible delegate.

### More information

**IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE:** [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au)

**AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL:** [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)