



**A GUIDE TO
THE WEARING OF
INSIGNIA**

Governor-General's Office
Government House, Canberra

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INTRODUCTION

This guide to the wearing of Insignia has been prepared by the Governor-General's Office, Canberra, to assist those who wish to wear their Orders, Decorations and Medals on appropriate occasions. The host or person responsible for a function should indicate to those attending whether it would be appropriate for Orders, Decorations and Medals to be worn. These guidelines refer to the wearing of Insignia when not in uniform; those in uniform should wear their Insignia in accordance with the appropriate dress regulations.

On formal occasions when Decorations are to be worn the Invitations should state 'Evening Dress—Decorations' or 'Dinner Jacket—Decorations'.

There are also some occasions, which may include Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Special Church Services and Regimental Gatherings, at which lounge suit is to be worn, and at which it may be appropriate to wear decorations. Although the invitations should state 'Lounge Suit—Decorations', the decorations to be worn will depend on whether the function is a day-time or evening function.

The occasions when Orders, Decorations and Medals are worn with Morning Dress are comparatively rare. Such occasions may include special official public functions, memorial services etc. In each case the sponsor of the function or service should indicate whether the wearing of Decorations would be appropriate. Even so, on all such occasions the wearing of Insignia will be at the discretion of the holder.

Recipients of awards in the Australian honours system—other than Commendations—receive full size and miniature Insignia. In addition, recipients of awards other than Commendations and Long Service Medals receive a lapel badge or brooch which may be worn at any time whenever full size or miniature Decorations are not worn. The most senior lapel badge or brooch, or the one most appropriate to the occasion, should be worn: however, not more than one lapel badge or brooch should be worn at any one time. Holders of these distinctively Australian awards are urged to wear their lapel badge or brooch regularly.

The *manner of wearing* of Insignia, as described in this booklet, *does not reflect the order of wearing*. The Australian Order of Precedence of Honours and Awards is approved by The Queen and published from time to time in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*.

KNIGHTS AND DAMES

A Knight's¹ Insignia comprise a Neck Badge and a Breast Badge, a Dame's² Insignia comprise a Shoulder Badge and a Breast Badge.

The Neck Badge of a Knight, when presented at an investiture, is suspended from a full size ribbon. On all subsequent occasions the Knight's Neck Badge is worn on a miniature width ribbon passed under the collar, fastened at the back of the neck and adjusted so that the Badge hangs just below the knot of the tie.

A Dame's Badge is suspended from a bow of full size ribbon, and is worn on the left shoulder.

The Breast Badge of a Knight or Dame is worn on the left side of the coat, jacket or dress.

The miniature³ should be included in its precedence when mounted on a medal bar with the miniatures of other Orders, Decorations and Medals. A single miniature should not be worn when wearing the related full size Insignia.

Evening Dress

With Evening Dress, on occasions when Decorations are worn, a Knight⁴ wears the senior Neck Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, and the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals, mounted on a medal bar.

A Dame⁵ similarly wears the senior Shoulder Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, suspended from a bow, and worn below the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar.

¹ This refers to Knights or Dames of the Order of Australia and Knights or Dames Commander of British Orders. The Insignia of Knights or Dames Grand Cross of British Orders comprise a Broad Riband and Badge, and a Star.

² See note 1 above.

³ The Garter, the Thistle, the Order of Merit, the Companion of Honour and the Baronet's Badge are not worn in miniature.

⁴ This refers to Knights or Dames of the Order of Australia and Knights or Dames Commander of British Orders. Knights or Dames Grand Cross of British Orders should wear the senior or most appropriate Broad Riband and Badge and, in addition, one Neck Badge (gentlemen) or Shoulder Badge (ladies), and miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar.

⁵ See note 4 above.

Up to four Breast Badges or Stars may be worn on the left side of the jacket or dress. When more than one is worn the precedence of the position of each is (looking at the wearer):

Four Orders	Three Orders	Two Orders
1	1	1
2 3	2 3	2
4		

Dinner Jacket

With Dinner Jacket, on occasions when Decorations are worn, a Knight wears the senior Neck Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, and the associated Breast Badge, and the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar. Only one Breast Badge or Star is worn with dinner jacket.

A Dame similarly wears the senior Shoulder Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, and the associated Breast Badge, and the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar. The Shoulder Badge is worn below the medal bar. (In tropical climates, when Dinner Dress is worn without the Jacket, a Neck Badge and miniatures may be worn on the shirt: Breast Badges and Stars are not worn on the shirt.)

Morning Dress

With Morning Dress, on occasions when Decorations are worn, a Knight wears up to four Breast Badges or Stars on the left side of the jacket. Full size Orders, Decorations and Medals normally mounted on a medal bar are also worn. A Knight of the Order of Australia also wears his Neck Badge, but Knights of British Orders do not wear either the Broad Riband and Badge, or the Neck Badge.

A Dame similarly wears up to four Breast Badges or Stars on the left side of the dress. Full size Orders, Decorations and Medals normally mounted on a medal bar are also worn. A Dame of the Order of Australia also wears her Shoulder Badge, below the medal bar if worn, but Dames of British Orders do not wear either the Broad Riband and Badge, or the Shoulder Badge.

When more than one Breast Badge or Star is worn the precedence of the position of each is (looking at the wearer):

Four Orders	Three Orders	Two Orders
1	1	1
2 3	2 3	2
4		

Lounge Suit

With Lounge Suit, full size Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar may be worn at appropriate day-time functions. At evening functions the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar may be worn. In addition one Neck Badge (gentlemen) or one Shoulder Badge (ladies) may be worn. The ladies' Shoulder Badge should be worn below the medal bar.

It is not customary to wear Breast Badges, or Broad Ribands and Badges, with Lounge Suit.

A Ribbon Bar of Orders, Decorations and Medals may be worn on all occasions with all forms of civilian dress at the discretion of the holder.

COMPANIONS AND OFFICERS OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA, AND COMPANIONS AND COMMANDERS OF BRITISH ORDERS

The Insignia of Companions and Officers of the Order of Australia and Companions¹ and Commanders of British Orders comprise a Neck Badge (gentlemen) and a Shoulder Badge (ladies).

The Neck Badge for gentlemen when presented at an investiture is suspended from a full size ribbon. On all subsequent occasions the Neck Badge is worn on a miniature width ribbon passed under the collar, fastened at the back of the neck and adjusted so that the badge hangs just below the knot of the tie.

The ladies' Shoulder Badge is suspended from a bow of full size ribbon and is worn on the left shoulder.

The miniature² should be included in its precedence when mounted on a medal bar with the miniatures of other Orders, Decorations and Medals. A single miniature should not be worn when wearing the related full size Insignia.

Evening Dress

With Evening Dress, on occasions when Decorations are worn, gentlemen wear the senior Neck Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, and the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar.

Ladies wear the senior Shoulder Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, suspended from a bow and worn below the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar.

Dinner Jacket

With Dinner Jacket, on occasions when Decorations are worn, gentlemen wear the senior Neck Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, and the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar.

¹ Companions of the Distinguished Service Order and Imperial Service Order wear their insignia on the left side and not as a neck decoration.

² The Companion of Honour is not worn in miniature.

Ladies wear the senior Shoulder Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, suspended from a bow and worn below the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar. (In tropical climates, when Dinner Dress is worn without the Jacket, a Neck Badge and miniatures may be worn on the shirt.)

Morning Dress

With Morning Dress, on occasions when Decorations are worn, gentlemen wear the senior Neck Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion. Full size Orders, Decorations and Medals normally mounted on a medal bar are also worn.

Ladies wear the senior Shoulder Badge, or the Badge most appropriate to the occasion, suspended from a bow, and worn below full size Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar.

Lounge Suit

With Lounge Suit, full size Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar may be worn at appropriate day-time functions. At evening functions the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar may be worn. In addition one Neck Badge (gentlemen) or one Shoulder Badge (ladies) may be worn. The ladies' Shoulder Badge should be worn below the medal bar.

A Ribbon Bar of Orders, Decorations and Medals may be worn on all occasions with all forms of civilian dress at the discretion of the holder.

MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BRITISH ORDERS, AND HOLDERS OF MEDALS

These Insignia comprise a medal suspended from a full size ribbon and are worn on the left shoulder.

Evening Dress

With Evening Dress, on occasions when Decorations are worn, the Insignia is worn in miniature.

If worn with miniatures of other Orders, Decorations and Medals it should be mounted on a medal bar.

Dinner Jacket

With Dinner Jacket, on occasions when Decorations are worn, the Insignia is worn in miniature.

If worn with miniatures of other Orders, Decorations and Medals it should be mounted on a medal bar. (In tropical climates, when Dinner Dress is worn without the Jacket, miniatures may be worn on the shirt.)

Morning Dress

With Morning Dress, on occasions when Decorations are worn, the Insignia is worn full size.

If worn with other full size Orders, Decorations and Medals it should be mounted on a medal bar.

Lounge Suit

With Lounge Suit, full size Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar may be worn at appropriate day-time functions. At evening functions the miniatures of Orders, Decorations and Medals mounted on a medal bar may be worn.

A Ribbon Bar of Orders, Decorations and Medals may be worn on all occasions with all forms of civilian dress at the discretion of the holder.

COMMENDATIONS

Commendations may be worn on the left shoulder or lapel on all occasions when full size Orders, Decorations and Medals are worn. Commendations are not worn in miniature.

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