



What if I am announced as a national recipient?

The Australian of the Year Awards provide the four national recipients with a unique platform to help each of you share your message with all Australians. There is no set formula for what happens next – it varies from person to person. Every Australian of the Year has responded differently to his or her use of the honour. It might be a little daunting, but the year is what you make of it.

The National Australia Day Council (NADC) is here to support you every step of the way. The first 48 hours after the awards announcement can be an intense period for winners. We'll be on hand to help guide you through that time. Here's what you can expect.

On the day of the award ceremony (25 January)

Run through

On the morning of 25 January all State and Territory Recipients will attend a walkthrough of the Great Hall in Parliament House where the national announcement will take place. You will be shown where to stand on stage should you be announced as a National Recipient.

Speech

If you are selected as a National Recipient, you will give a 2-3-minute speech. It is a historic moment, which is broadcast live and shared nationally. We encourage you to work with Leesa Shannon in advance and have a clear message that you'd like to communicate in the event of winning.

Media

There is a large media presence at the national announcement. Immediately following the end of the ceremony you will be called on stage for photos with the Prime Minister, and then you'll participate in multiple media interviews. We will also hold a briefing after the media interviews to talk you and your family through the next day's schedule.

The next day - Australia Day

Media

Be prepared for an early start! We will pick you up from the hotel at 5:30am and take you to the Press Gallery in Parliament House to participate in interviews for breakfast television and radio programs. This is likely to run until 10 am. During this time, your family can checkout of the hotel and attend the Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony which is on from 9am to 11am (transport provided from the Crowne hotel).

Australian of the Year Walk

Following the conclusion of the media, you will be transported to the [Australian of the Year walk](#) where you will be able to see the plaque listing you as the 2018 Australian of the Year for your category.

Sydney Functions

The Premier of NSW has invited the four national recipients and their families to attend Australia Day celebrations around Sydney. We will arrange your travel and accommodation for this, and NADC staff will accompany you to the functions, which include:

- Live at the Quay: a parade around Circular Quay by boat including live crosses from the boat to the audience
- The Australia Day Reception at the Sydney Opera House to view the fireworks.



What the year looks like...beyond Australia Day

One of the first things that will happen after the announcement is everybody you know (and even those you don't know) will send letters and messages of congratulations. Trying to respond to this large volume of correspondence can become very overwhelming and we can help you with this task.

As Australians of the Year you are likely to be invited to numerous events throughout the year. The NADC will organise to meet you in early February to discuss how we can support you with your schedule, and what events you wish to be involved with.

Sponsor Engagement and Commitments

The Australian of the Year Awards wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Our sponsors follow your journey from when you are announced as a nominee all the way through your year as a National Recipient. They are extremely proud to showcase you and your successes and hear your stories.

We have an agreement with our major sponsors that National Recipients will attend and speak at a minimum of four events during the year. This has been very important for NADC in helping secure ongoing sponsorship. We will arrange these events in advance and work with you to confirm dates and availability. We will also cover your travel costs. You may be invited to attend more than these four events, and we can discuss invitations with you. We will be in contact with you soon after the award about this process and how we would like to get you involved.

NADC key dates

The NADC runs its own events and there are a few important ones that we hope you can attend. We will cover all related travel costs.

27 February – Sponsors function

Meet with the NADC to discuss arrangements for 2018 before attending a sponsor's thank you function in the evening. To be held in Sydney.

Late May / First week of June – Nominations launch

We officially launch the call for nominations for the Awards at a media event.

May/ July – Alumni activities

We run events with the national and state/territory Australians of the Year which provide an opportunity to meet with local community groups and schools and to promote the call for new nominations.

17 September – Citizenship Day (Local Hero only)

Each year the Department of Home Affairs organise a special Citizenship Ceremony at Government House in celebration of Citizenship Day. As the sponsor of the Local Hero category they also arrange a staff address that week which you will be invited to speak at.

Late October/November - State and Territory presentations

- We encourage you to attend your state/territory presentation for the 2019 Awards.
- National Museum of Australia host a special Q&A with the Australian of the Year which is filmed by the ABC.

24 - 26 January – 2019 Australian of the Year Awards

We welcome you back to join us for the program of events leading up to the announcement of the 2019 Awards.