



Swearing-In  
of  
Ms Sam Mostyn AC  
as  
Governor-General  
of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

Senate Chamber  
Parliament House, Canberra  
Monday 1 July 2024





## ORDER OF ARRANGEMENTS

Australia's Federation Guard takes its position on the Forecourt.

The Prime Minister and Ms Jodie Haydon greet the Governor-General designate and Mr Simeon Beckett SC when they arrive on the Great Verandah at 9.15 am.

The Governor-General designate participates in a smoking ceremony and receives a General Salute from Australia's Federation Guard after which she and Mr Beckett, accompanied by the Prime Minister and Ms Haydon, enter Parliament House and proceed to the suite of the President of the Senate.

The Governor-General designate enters the Senate Chamber at 9.30 am.

*All stand when the Usher of the Black Rod announces the Governor-General designate and remain standing until the Governor-General designate takes her seat. All then remain seated throughout the Swearing-In Ceremony. All stand as the Governor-General leaves the Senate Chamber.*

### **The sequence for the Swearing-In Ceremony is as follows:**

1. The Official Secretary to the Governor-General reads His Majesty's Commission and hands the Commission to the Chief Justice of Australia for inspection.

*The Letters Patent Relating to the Office of Governor-General of the Commonwealth issued by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second on 21 August 2008 require that the appointment of a person to the office of Governor-General shall be 'during Our pleasure by Commission under Our Sign Manual and the Great Seal of Australia'. The Commission, therefore, is the instrument by which a person is appointed as Governor-General.*

*The Commission to appoint Ms Sam Mostyn AC as Governor-General will, as soon as she has 'taken the prescribed affirmations' and 'entered upon the duties' of her office, supersede the Commission appointing His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC CVO DSC (Retd) as Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.*

2. The Affirmation of Allegiance and the Affirmation of Office are handed to the Chief Justice by the Official Secretary. The Chief Justice presents the Affirmations to the Governor-General designate and invites her to make the Affirmations.

*The Letters Patent also require that, before assuming office, a person appointed to be Governor-General, 'shall take the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and the Oath or Affirmation of Office in the presence of the Chief Justice or another Justice of the High Court of Australia'.*

*The form of the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance is set out in the Schedule to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and refers to an oath or affirmation to be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, His heirs and successors according to law.*

*The Oath or Affirmation of Office is dealt with in the Letters Patent and refers to an oath or affirmation swearing or affirming well and truly to serve His Majesty King Charles the Third, His heirs and successors according to law in the office of Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and to do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of the Commonwealth of Australia, without fear or favour, affection or ill will.*

3. The Affirmation forms are signed by the Governor-General designate and the Chief Justice.

4. The Official Secretary presents the Governor-General designate with a Proclamation declaring that she has assumed office, which she signs.

*The Proclamation is made by the Governor-General designate and countersigned by the Prime Minister. It announces the appointment by Commission as Governor-General, that the prescribed Affirmations of Allegiance and Office have been duly made and that, accordingly, the Governor-General has now assumed office.*

5. The Official Secretary invites the Prime Minister to countersign the document, and then reads the Proclamation.
6. When the Official Secretary has completed reading the Proclamation, Her Excellency the Governor-General speaks.
7. On conclusion of Her Excellency's address:
  - (i) a Salute of 21 Guns is fired
  - (ii) Her Excellency's Standard is broken on the Members' Terrace of Parliament House.

Their Excellencies, accompanied by the Prime Minister and Ms Haydon, the Presiding Officers and the Chief Justice, retire from the Senate Chamber and return to the suite of the President of the Senate.

Ministers of State and their partners proceed from the Senate Chamber to the Senate Government Lobby for presentation to Their Excellencies.

Assistant Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of The National Party of Australia and the Leader of the Australian Greens proceed from the Senate Chamber to the Ante-Room of the Government Lobby for presentation.

The Chief Justice of Australia and Justices of the High Court and their partners proceed to the Ante-Room of the Senate Opposition Lobby for presentation.

## THE RECEPTION IN THE MEMBERS' HALL

After the Ceremony, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and other guests leave the Senate Chamber and proceed to the reception in the Members' Hall.

At approximately 10.10 am, a digeridoo will signal the arrival of the official party. The first verse of the National Anthem will be sung in English and then in Ngunnawal language and this will be followed by a *Welcome to Country* by Aunty Serena Williams, Ngunnawal Elder. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition will speak and Her Excellency will respond. Their Excellencies will then meet guests.

Their Excellencies leave the Reception at approximately 11.00 am. Her Excellency receives a Royal Salute and inspects Australia's Federation Guard in front of Parliament House. Their Excellencies leave for Government House.

Protocol and International Visits Branch  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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*Guests leaving Parliament House via the front entrance are asked to remain in the Members' Hall for a few minutes after Her Excellency has left the reception to allow time for the completion of Her Excellency's ceremonial departure.*

*Please note that personal photography is not permitted in the Senate Chamber.*

*Mobile phones must be turned off in the Senate Chamber*

### ***Australian floral emblem***

*When in flower, the golden wattle displays the national colours, green and gold.*

*As one species of a large genus of flora growing across Australia, the golden wattle is a symbol of unity.*

*Wattle is ideally suited to withstand Australia's droughts, winds and bushfires. The resilience of wattle represents the spirit of the Australian people.*

*The then Governor-General, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian M Stephen AK GCMG GCVO KBE, proclaimed the golden wattle as the national floral emblem on 19 August 1988.*

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