



RSL Australia - Passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Flags

If the Australian National Flag is flown out front of buildings, you are to half-mast it. That way to do this is to raise the ANF to the top first and then lower it to one-third down the flagpole (not halfway). If you have other flags on other poles, you are to lower them before the ANF or simultaneously (if able).

As a mark of mourning and respect and in accordance with protocol, the Australian National Flag should be flown at half-mast **immediately and until further notice**. Vice-Regal Standards are to remain at full mast.

It is customary to fly the flag at half-mast from the time of announcement of the death of The Sovereign until the day after the funeral, except on the day the accession of the new Sovereign is proclaimed.

When flying the Australian National Flag with other flags, all flags in the set should be flown at half-mast.

If a set of flags includes the flags of other nations, it would be appropriate to seek permission from the diplomatic representatives of that nation to half-mast their flag.

- An acceptable half-mast position would be when the top of the flag is a third of the distance down from the top of the flagpole.
- Flags may be flown at half-mast overnight, provided they are illuminated.
- Information on flag protocol is available at <https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-flag>
- If you have a Union Jack, you can fly this (at half-mast). Depending on how many flag poles you have, you may need to take down the RSL flag during this time of mourning if you wish, to fly a Union Jack.

Proclamation of the new Sovereign

- In Australia, a Proclamation Ceremony will be held at Parliament House in Canberra at noon on 11 September 2022. The Governor-General will read the Proclamation on the Forecourt of Parliament House.
- The Proclamation will be followed by a 21-gun salute.
- During the proclamation of the new Sovereign, the flags will be raised to the top for the remainder of that day. After that day, the flags are half-masted again until the funeral. We will take the guidance from National Symbols on this.

Military Support

Australia's Federation Guard (AFG) in the ACT will conduct a Gun salute (consisting of 96 rounds) which will take place at the forecourt of Parliament House at 1700hrs Friday 9 September. When the proclamation of the new Sovereign is announced, AFG will conduct a Gun salute consisting of 21 rounds. Shells from this Salute will be engraved with the details of the event, and one will be kept at Government House, Parliament House, and one sent to Buckingham Palace. RSL Australia has also requested one of the shells.

- There will be very little (if anything) Military support anywhere else in the country as ADF does not have the capacity to support anything other than Canberra.

This is not an occasion where Catafalque Parties would be appropriate.

Condolence Books

There will be condolences books at both Government House and Parliament House. These will be available for the public to sign. The States are expected to do the same, though will not be directed to. At each States discretion you can go proceed with a physical Condolence book or an online/digital version. The Prime Minister and Cabinet Condolence book is located at the following link - <https://www.pmc.gov.au/her-majesty-the-queen>
[Condolences for Her Majesty The Queen \(pmc.gov.au\)](https://www.pmc.gov.au/her-majesty-the-queen)

National Day of Mourning

There will be an invitation to observe one minute of silence, which businesses and other organisations may observe. The National Day of Mourning will not be a public holiday.

Floral Tributes

In Canberra, floral tributes may be left at the Forecourt of Parliament House and Government House. Each State and Territory will make local arrangements for floral tributes.

Royal Photographs

Photographs of The Queen may continue to be displayed in official buildings until further notice. A Pall Ribbon may be placed upon a portrait of Her Majesty The Queen. The ribbon shall be hung at a 45° angle over the upper left corner of the frame of the portrait, in such a fashion to reveal the presence of the ribbon, ensuring that it is not obscured by the frame of the portrait. The ribbon should not be so large that it obscures the face of HRH. It is not practical or advisable to attempt to place a Pall Ribbon on three dimensional representations of The Queen, i.e., busts or statuary.

For hanging Pall Ribbon on a portrait, it is best to simply use a piece of black ribbon, in suggested width, and affix it to the back of the frame with masking tape; this will avoid damaging the back dust cover of the frame, will remain in place for the necessary duration, and can easily be removed. (See images below).

Portraits affixed with Pall Ribbons

