

Response from Department of Home Affairs

Thank you for your email, the contents of which the Department confirm receipt.

From what I can glean from the below emails, it appears that Christian is seeking certain information held by the Department of Home Affairs under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth).

Christian is at liberty to lodge an FOI application with the Department of Home Affairs. Information relating to lodging an FOI request with the Department can be found at the following link:

[How to make a FOI request \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/foi)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Samuel
Team Leader – NSW Ceremonies
NSW Citizenship – Sydney Office
Citizenship Program Delivery Branch
Social Cohesion and Citizenship Group
Department of Home Affairs

Mayoral Minutes (2)

Council Meeting

14 September 2021

Item No: C0921(2) Item 24

Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: MOVE CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES ONLINE TO ADDRESS BACKLOG

From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT Council immediately initiates virtual online Citizenship Ceremonies to address the backlog.

Background

Inner West Council currently has 1137 outstanding applicants for citizenship. Five Citizenship Ceremonies have been cancelled following the latest lockdown due to COVID 19 restrictions.

It is proposed to initiate virtual ceremonies, similar to ceremonies already being conducted at other councils, such as the City of Sydney as soon as possible.

It is understood that originally the Department of Home Affairs advised at the beginning of the lockdown that they were able to conduct virtual ceremonies. This is what occurred during the lockdown in 2020. People seeking citizenship through the Mayor's Office were therefore referred to the Department for virtual ceremonies however it would appear these are not happening as many Greater Sydney Councils now have significant backlogs.

The Department of Home Affairs have indicated that they will require 2 weeks' notice for a Ceremony to be conducted.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Council Meeting

23 November 2021

Item No: C1121(2) Item 16

Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: THANK YOU

From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT Council thank all Councillors, staff and community members for their commitment and dedication to our community and their service on the Inner West Council.

Background

Tonight, we mark the last meeting of the four-year first term of Inner West Council. I want to acknowledge just some of what we achieved together – staff, community members and Councillors and to thank everyone for the contribution they have made.

We have worked hard in often difficult circumstances to deliver significant environmental, social, cultural, economic and civic outcomes for the Inner West community.

Together we stood with the community and faced the challenges of COVID-19 while providing unprecedented support to those who were most affected. In both years of the pandemic, Council allocated \$250,000 to 10 local organisations enabling direct assistance to vulnerable people. We provided extra funding to support local businesses, created arts resilience grants and are now implementing support for the local hospitality sector. We continued to deliver frontline services to the community throughout the lockdowns, and we were one of the first councils to offer Libraries click and collect services.

In mid-September, because of the lockdown, we had 1,130 people waiting to become Australian citizens. We couldn't run in person citizenship ceremonies but found out that we could run small online ceremonies of approximately 45 people instead so every Monday evening and some weekends we have been running online citizenship ceremonies. I want to thank the great work and dedication of Council staff – Denise, Grace and Kim in making this happen. We will have given almost 1,000 residents citizenship in the last 2 months by next week.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.