



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
QUEENSLAND

VICE-REGAL PATRONAGE GUIDELINES

What is the purpose of patronage?

Vice-regal patronage of an organisation recognises the contribution it makes to Queensland, provides publicity for its work, enhances its profile within the community, and gives access to the Governor's public support. For this purpose, it also includes other appropriate appointments such as honorary appointments to the Australian Defence Forces and Official Visitor status to universities and schools.

Why is vice-regal patronage beneficial?

Patronage is generally sought by organisations to:

- promote their organisational objectives through the Governor's active involvement as patron, including speaking commitments, attendance at launches, meetings and signature events; or
- establish 'figurehead' patronage from the Governor through nominal association.

What are the expectations of patronage organisations?

It is expected that, in whatever capacity the Governor is associated with the organisation (Patron, Honorary Air Commodore, etc.), the Governor's name must head the list of those associated, with the exception of the name of Her Majesty The Queen; and this should be reflected on all appropriate documents such as letterhead, annual reports and websites. It is also expected the organisation will keep the Office of the Governor up to date on any changes at the organisation and include the Office of the Governor on mailing lists for newsletters and annual reports.

Governor's involvement as Patron

The Governor seeks to be an active patron for all organisations, providing acknowledgement, encouragement, and community visibility in a range of ways including by hosting events at Government House; attending selected key events arranged by a particular organisation; and providing written messages of support in significant documents such as annual reports, and video messages where appropriate.

Patronage organisations are encouraged to invite the Governor to suitable events and activities associated with their work. When considering invitations to the Governor and/or their spouse, please note that:

- generally, they do not attend annual general meetings; and
- they cannot be linked with fundraising or political activities.

Given the commitment involved in being Patron, it is not possible for the Governor and their spouse to accept all patronage requests. Should the Governor's heavy program of duties and commitments preclude them from accepting patronage, this in no way reflects on an organisation's reputation or the significant contribution it makes to Queensland.

Patronage is also not the only means of support the Governor and/or Government House can provide to an organisation. Even where patronage is not accepted, the Office of the Governor encourages organisations to continue to invite the Governor and/or their spouse to special events, and to continue to send publications and updates for their interest and information.

Can vice-regal patronage be shared?

Vice-regal patronage can be shared ONLY with Her Majesty The Queen or another vice-regal person.

If an organisation seeking vice-regal patronage already has a patron or patrons, they must be prepared to become vice-patrons.

When can an organisation request vice-regal patronage?

Vice-regal patronage is the prerogative of each successive Governor and is an honour bestowed personally by them. Patronage does not transfer from one Governor to the next. The granting of patronage applies only for the period during which the Governor holds office.

Towards the end of a Governor's term in office, all organisations/groups currently enjoying vice-regal patronage are advised of the appointment of the new Governor and of the process to be followed should they wish to re-apply for such patronage.



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Organisations/groups without vice-regal patronage can make a request for consideration at any time but it is recommended to submit a request in preparation for the commencement of a Governor's term.

How to apply for vice-regal patronage

Organisations are invited to submit their patronage request via the [online request form](#).

Patronage may be requested from the Governor or the Governor's spouse, or a joint request to both. The Governor's spouse has traditionally given patronage to a diverse but smaller range of community organisations, generally chosen based on merit and personal interest.

Organisations interested in requesting vice-regal patronage should be based in Queensland and work to improve the lives of Queenslanders. The work of these groups is diverse but could include those with a focus on health and wellness, indigenous education, community inclusiveness, youth, regional and remote Queensland, the arts and sport.

The Governor will not accept requests for patronage from political or purely commercial organisations, foundations, or organisations without a specific focus on Queensland.

Publication

Once finalised, a list of the Governor's patronages will be published on the Government House website.