One of the best things about being Mayor is having the opportunity to confer Australian Citizenship for our many residents who have applied to become citizens of this country. Given the growth of our City and the many cultures that choose to call Wyndham home – we have one of the highest demands for Citizenship Ceremonies in the country. Wyndham Council currently holds over 30 ceremonies a year which results in over 4,000 residents receiving Citizenship locally each year.

Unfortunately – given the significant demand within our area, people can be waiting up to 9 months to attend a ceremony and receive their Citizenship. It is important to note that Councils are not responsible for the processing of citizenships – this is the responsibility of the Federal Department of Home Affairs. Councils are only involved with the staging of ceremonies in their local areas.

Last week representatives from the Department of Home Affairs came to Wyndham to meet with Council to discuss the current wait times experienced by our residents. The Department is well aware of the significant demands coming from our area and has committed to holding more ceremonies that our residents can attend to reduce delays. We were really pleased with the outcome of the meeting and the willingness of the Department to assist our residents.

We love staging these ceremonies, however given that Council receives no direct funding to cover the cost of the events – we can only do so many before it begins to have a budget impact. The staff from the Department of Home Affairs were really understanding and will continue to work with us to address wait times in the future.

Regards, Mia Shaw.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

What do I do if I have been waiting a long time to receive Citizenship?
Any questions relating to Citizenship should be directed to the Department of Home Affairs as they are responsible for the processing of applications. They can discuss the options available to you and give you an update on your application.

If I would like to know what Ceremony I am being allocated to, should I contact Council?
No, Council does not have any involvement in the allocation of Ceremonies. Each year Council sets the dates for the ceremonies we have the resources to run, and the Department then allocates individuals accordingly.

Why can’t Wyndham Council run more Ceremonies?
Wyndham already processes one of the largest number of applicants Australia wide – approximately 30 ceremonies per year. Given that Council receives no direct funding to stage these events, we can’t accommodate any more without having an impact on other service delivery areas. Fortunately the Department of Home Affairs are very understanding of this and have committed to providing more options for Wyndham residents to reduce wait times.

What is the best point of contact for further information?
If you have any other questions or would like to discuss your individual circumstances, visit https://www.auimmigration.net/contact/ or call 131 88.