

Frequently Asked Questions

National Emergency Medal

The National Emergency Medal Committee (the Committee) has determined the following eligibility criteria for Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017 and North Queensland Floods 2019. Nominations may be submitted for either sustained (meeting timeframes/service requirements as below) or significant service (specific significant contribution).

Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017

The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria:

Sustained Service – awarded on the recommendation of the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat:

- service must be in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).
- the geographical areas in Australia consist of the following local government areas, as at 25 March 2017.
New South Wales: Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield, Tweed.
Queensland: Banana, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Burdekin, Central Highlands, Charters Towers, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gold Coast City, Goondiwindi, Gympie, Hinchinbrook, Ipswich, Isaac, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Mackay, Maranoa, Moreton Bay, Noosa, North Burnett, Palm Island, Redland, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim, Somerset, South Burnett, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Western Downs, Whitsunday, Woorabinda Aboriginal.
- the qualifying period begins on 25 March 2017 and ends on 10 April 2017; and
- the minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is 5 days.

Significant Service – awarded on the recommendation of the National Emergency Medal Committee:

- service was part of the response efforts to the nationally-significant emergency;
- service assisted with the protection of lives and property;
- service was extraordinary.

North Queensland Floods 2019

The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria:

Sustained Service – awarded on the recommendation of the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat:

- service must be in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).
- the geographical areas in Australia consist of the following local government areas, as at 25 March 2017.
Queensland: Aurukun, Barcoo, Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Cairns, Carpentaria, Cassowary Coast, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Cook, Croydon, Diamantina, Douglas, Etheridge, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, Hope Vale, Kowanyama River, Lockhart River, Longreach, Mackay, Mapoon, Mareeba, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, Napranum, Northern Peninsula, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Richmond, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Townsville, Whitsunday, Winton, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah.
- the qualifying period begins on 25 January 2019 and ends on 14 February 2019; and
- the minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is 5 days.

Significant Service – awarded on the recommendation of the National Emergency Medal Committee:

- service was part of the response efforts to the nationally-significant emergency;
- service assisted with the protection of lives and property;
- service was extraordinary.



If you have further questions, please contact 07 3635 2222 or QFES.HonoursandAwards@qfes.qld.gov.au



1. Is the criteria timeframe for each event flexible?

The National Emergency Medal Committee, Canberra, determine the timeframes due to their risk assessment of the heightened activity period for the event. The Committee has advised QFES that there is no flexibility.

2. Do you have to have physically worked in the listed Local Government Areas (LGAs)?

These are the identified areas of impact. The activities you were performing must have been in or in support of these LGA's.

3. Can the SOC/SDCC be included?

Yes. The SOC and SDCC provide state support that enables or facilitates the direct emergency response. Please include that you undertook duties in the SOC/SDCC in the 'Role and description of duties' column in the schedule.

4. Can the ROC/ICCs be included?

Yes. The ROC/ICCs provide local support that enables or facilitates the direct emergency response.

5. Can public servants who provided administrative support be included?

Yes. Support roles that enable the direct emergency response are eligible. Please provide a description of your role as evidence of enabling/facilitating the direct emergency response.

6. Can FireCom be included?

Yes. FireCom provide support that enables or facilitates the direct emergency response, however, you will need to provide evidence that the activities you undertook for the time period were in relation to the specific event.

7. Can Peer Support Officers be included?

Yes. PSO's provide support that enables or facilitates the direct emergency response, however, you will need to provide evidence that the activities you undertook for the time period were in relation to the specific event. Please send your nomination to FESSN@qfes.qld.gov.au

8. Can firefighters on normal shift at the time be included?

Yes, providing you meet the criteria and provide proof that the majority of call outs for the time period were in response to the specific event.

9. Can we change the columns in the schedule?

No. The Australian Honours & Awards Secretariat, Canberra have established these schedules to assist with timely processing of nominations. We are not able to alter the format. Please contact the Honours and Awards team if you are having difficulty, email QFES.HonoursandAwards@qfes.qld.gov.au

10. Do the days worked have to be consecutive?

No, but your service must total 5 calendar days. Travel and preparation days may be included if they fall between the eligibility dates. Days are counted as calendar days, not shifts. If two shifts fall on the one calendar day, only one day can be included. If shift hours are over two calendar days, two days can be counted.

11. What if you worked 2 days in the timeframe and 3 days outside the timeframe?

Unfortunately, you are not eligible. Service dates must fit within the criteria timeframe as determined by the National Emergency Medal Committee.



12. Why is the sustained service period for TC Debbie 2017 and North Queensland Floods 2019 different to previous events recognised by the NEM?

Each event is assessed by the National Emergency Medal Committee separately and specific eligibility criteria is determined at the time of declaration. The criteria for the Victoria Bushfires 2009, Queensland Floods 2010-11 and Cyclone Yasi remain the same.

13. Who needs to complete the nomination schedule?

Individuals can complete the schedule to nominate themselves or someone may complete on behalf of a group. Either way, if you/the group work within a region, your nomination must be submitted to the regional AC for endorsement. If you work within a State Unit, your nomination is to be sent to your State AC/Executive Director.

14. How much evidence do I need to provide and how do I get it?

You will need to provide evidence of participation when you send the nomination to your AC/ED for endorsement. Acceptable evidence may include OMS roster, approved timesheets, incident report/ESCAD report (clearly stating work that work conducted was for the event).

15. Some of my duties/tasks were clean-up/mop down/hose outs. Are these response or recovery duties?

Only direct response tasks for the event are eligible. Clean up duties are conducted as recovery tasks within QFES and are not eligible for inclusion toward any NEM recognised event.

16. There is an online nomination form on the Australian Honours website. Can I use that?

Whilst this online form is available, please do not submit your nomination this way. QFES will be submitting bulk nominations coordinated through AC/ED offices. We seek your assistance to ensure your colleagues submit their nominations through their regional AC, or if they work in a State Unit, the AC/ED's office. Australian Honours and Awards will redirect any nominations received via the online form back to QFES for verification.

17. Do I need to complete a QFES nomination form?

No. You only need to complete the schedule and submit with supporting evidence to your AC/ED office.

18. Is there a deadline for submission of nominations?

The Honours and Awards Unit have requested AC/ED offices submit a summary schedule to the QFES Honours and Awards team by 15 May 2020. You will need to have your nomination submitted as soon as possible before that date to be included. Whilst it is likely further nominations will be considered by Canberra, it is preferable that as many QFES members are recognised as part of this round.

19. What do I need to submit if I don't satisfy the specific sustained service period or meet the criteria for significant service for the NEM?

The Honours and Award Unit have an extensive range of recognition options available from the Honours and Awards Booklet:

https://qfes.sharepoint.com/sites/gateway/our_org/scs/hcm/hcos/honoursawards/Documents/QFES-Honours-and-Awards.pdf

