

# THE NEW ZEALAND ROYAL HONOURS, ORDERS AND AWARDS

## STATE ORDERS

### THE ORDER OF NEW ZEALAND



The ONZ is New Zealand's most senior honour.

Queen Elizabeth II established this order in 1987 to recognise outstanding service to the Crown and people of New Zealand. Ordinary membership of the Order is restricted to 20 living persons.

### THE NEW ZEALAND ORDER OF MERIT

Queen Elizabeth II established the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1996 as a unique New Zealand Order to recognise New Zealanders who have given meritorious service to the Crown and Nation, or have become distinguished by their contribution to their individual fields.



#### DAME / KNIGHT GRAND COMPANION (GNZM)

Awarded for pre-eminent contribution in any field over a sustained period. Services have usually brought international recognition.



#### DAME / KNIGHT COMPANION (DNZM / KNZM)

Awarded for pre-eminent contribution in any field, achieving at a national or international level, recognised by peers and demonstrating sustained commitment.



#### COMPANION (CNZM)

Awarded for a prominent national or international leading role in regional affairs or distinguished contribution to an area of activity.



#### OFFICER (ONZM)

Awarded for a distinguished regional or national role in any field.



#### MEMBER (MNZM)

Awarded for achievement or service to the community, usually in a regional or national role.

### THE KING'S SERVICE ORDER

Queen Elizabeth II established the Queen's Service Order (QSO) with its associated Queen's Service Medal (QSM) in 1975. In 2024 the Order was renamed to the "King's Service Order" to acknowledge the new Sovereign. The awards recognise voluntary service to the community and service through elected and appointed office.



#### THE KING'S SERVICE ORDER (KSO)

The KSO is usually awarded for service at a national level.



#### THE KING'S SERVICE MEDAL (KSM)

The KSM is usually awarded for voluntary service to the community at a local or regional level.

### NEW ZEALAND STATE AWARDS

Queen Elizabeth II instituted the New Zealand Antarctic Medal (NZAM) in 2006 and the The New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) in 2007.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC MEDAL (NZAM)

Instituted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2006, this is awarded to recognise New Zealanders and others who have made an outstanding contribution to exploration, scientific research, conservation, environmental protection, or knowledge of the Antarctic region.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATION (DSD)

Instituted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2007 to recognise distinguished military service, by regular, territorial and reserve members of the New Zealand Defence Force, including command, leadership and service in an operational environment, or in support of operations.

### NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY AWARDS

The New Zealand Bravery Awards were instituted in 1999. These awards for civilians and military personnel are designed to recognise the actions of those persons who save or attempt to save the life of another person and in doing so place their own safety or life at risk.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND CROSS (NZC)

Awarded for 'acts of great bravery in situations of extreme danger'.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY STAR (NZBS)

Awarded for 'acts of outstanding bravery in situations of danger'.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY DECORATION (NZBD)

Awarded for 'acts of exceptional bravery in situations of danger'.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY MEDAL (NZBM)

Awarded for 'acts of bravery'.

## THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY AWARDS

The New Zealand Gallantry Awards were instituted in 1999. These awards are designed to recognise those military personnel, who perform acts of gallantry while involved in war and non-warlike operational service (including peacekeeping). Gallantry awards do not necessarily involve the saving or attempting to save the life of another person.



#### THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR NEW ZEALAND (VC)

Awarded for 'most conspicuous gallantry, or some daring or a pre-eminent act of valour, or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the face of the enemy or belligerents'.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY STAR (NZGS)

Awarded for 'outstanding acts of gallantry in situations of danger'.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY DECORATION (NZGD)

Awarded for 'acts of exceptional gallantry in situations of danger'.



#### THE NEW ZEALAND GALLANTRY MEDAL (NZGM)

Awarded for 'acts of gallantry'.

### NOMINATIONS FOR A NEW ZEALAND ROYAL HONOUR

Anyone can nominate a person they think is worthy of a New Zealand Royal Honour.

Nomination forms and information on the honours system can be found at:

[www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/nominations](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/nominations)

or you can contact the Honours Unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet:

Honours Unit, Cabinet Office  
Parliament Buildings, PO Box 55, Wellington 6140

Phone: (04) 830 5011

Email: [honours@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:honours@dpmc.govt.nz)

Website: [www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours)



DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government