



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



# ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

## Suggested order of service

Flags lowered to half-mast before the start of the service

Welcome speech

*2 minutes*

Mounting of catafalque party

*2 minutes*

Hymns or other music (optional)

*2 to 4 minutes*

Prayers, poems or readings (optional)

*2 to 5 minutes*

Commemorative address by invited guest

*3 to 5 minutes*

Wreath laying

*3 to 5 minutes*

*Ode of Remembrance*

*1 minute*

*The Last Post*

*1 minute 22 seconds*

Period of silence

*1 or 2 minutes*

*Reveille or The Rouse*

*1 minute*

National Anthem

*1 to 3 minutes*

Dismounting of catafalque party

*2 minutes*

Closing remarks

*2 minutes*

## Anzac Day

[anzacportal.dva.gov.au](http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au)

*Lest We Forget.*



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# ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

## Shortened order of service

*Sometimes a simpler service may be appropriate. Start with a short introduction followed by a period of silence.*

Introduction

Commemorative address

Wreath laying

Ode of Remembrance

*The Last Post*

Period of silence

*Reveille or The Rouse*  
(while flags are being raised)

Military personnel will stand to attention and salute during the lowering and raising of flags.

## Protocol for flags

The Australian National Flag is the most prominent flag flown during a ceremony. Others may include flags of other host nations, the Australian Aboriginal Flag, the Torres Strait Islander Flag and a state or territory flag.

During a ceremony held in Australia, the Australian National Flag is raised or lowered at the same time as other flags. If this is not possible, then the Australian flag is raised first and lowered last.

Generally, the flags are:

- lowered to half-mast before the start of the service.
- raised slowly to the masthead during the playing of *Reveille* or *The Rouse*.

If possible on Anzac Day, flags are:

- brought back down to half-mast at the conclusion of the ceremony.
- raised back to the top of the masthead at midday.

## Period of silence

Traditionally, a period of 2 minutes is observed for a dawn service and 1 minute at other times of the day. However, the time can be adjusted to suit your audience.

## *Reveille or The Rouse*

*Reveille* is played only for a dawn service.

*The Rouse* is played at other times of the day.

## Anthems

When the *Australian National Anthem* is played in conjunction with the national anthem of a foreign country, the foreign country's national anthem is always played first.