

ADDRESS BY
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING AO QC
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ON THE OCCASION OF
CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY
SkyCity, Darwin
17 September 2008

Preamble

Australian citizenship represents full and formal membership of the community of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Australian citizenship is a common bond, involving reciprocal rights and obligations, uniting all Australians, while respecting their diversity.

Persons on whom Australian citizenship is conferred enjoy these rights and undertake to accept these obligations:

- a) by pledging loyalty to Australia and its people; and
- b) by sharing their democratic beliefs; and
- c) by respecting their rights and liberties; and
- d) by upholding and obeying the laws of Australia.

Speech

Welcome to today's Citizenship Ceremony. Citizenship is a common bond which unites all Australians, whether they're

Australia's traditional inhabitants, first generation migrants, or the descendants of earlier settlers. Our rich heritage stems from the contributions made by all of us.

Acquiring Australian citizenship enables those doing so to participate fully in our inclusive society, realise aspirations and achieve their full potential, regardless of their race, background, gender, religion, language or place of birth. You are, today, formally welcomed to your new home.

As Australians, you will be members of a community that is democratic and in which everyone has equal rights and freedom of opportunity. However, you yourselves are about to undertake a new commitment and new responsibilities.

Citizenship brings responsibilities and duties: to obey the laws, to register on the Electoral Roll and vote in our democratic processes, to serve on a jury in a court of law if called to do so, and to defend Australia should the need arise. You have the right to hold your own beliefs and have pride in your cultural heritage. This is coupled with a responsibility to also accept the rights of others to equally reflect their heritage and beliefs.

Today's Australia has been built from the combined contributions of our Indigenous people and all those who came here later from all over the world.

Twenty-four years ago, in 1984, the Governor General proclaimed our new National Anthem, the second verse of which invites you as follows:

*For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share,
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.*

Only a few weeks ago we had lunch at Government House Darwin with the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and his wife. His name is Hieu Van Le and hers Lan Van Le. In 1977 they, with forty-nine other Vietnamese refugees, sailed into Darwin Harbour and a man fishing from a tinnie yelled out *G'day mate and welcome to Australia*. What a remarkable couple. They are fair dinkum Aussies and you are about to become one yourselves.

I would now like to invite all candidates who are making Pledge number one, the oath, to stand. If you wish to make the pledge on a holy book, please hold that book in your hands.

The words of the pledge are set out on your pledge card. It is a requirement that you recite the pledge out loud in order to become an Australian citizen. I invite you to read pledge number one together:

Oath

*From this time forward, under God,
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect, and
whose laws I will uphold and obey.*

I now invite all candidates who are making Pledge number two, the affirmation, to stand. The words of the pledge are set out on your pledge card. It is a requirement that you recite the pledge out loud in order to become an Australian citizen. I invite you to read pledge number two together:

Affirmation

*From this time forward,
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect, and
whose laws I will uphold and obey.*