

National Awards Committee – Policy and Procedure		
Title:	Wearing of the Medal, Ribbon or Badge of a Red Cross Award	Number: NAC011
Approved By:	National Awards Committee (NAC)	Issue Date: 2015
Status:	Approved by Australian Red Cross Board – February 2018	Next Review: TBA

1. General Information

Red Cross medals, or ribbons and badges, may be worn at **any important Red Cross event or public event**, for example:

- Red Cross functions on World Red Cross Day (8 May each year)
- Australian Red Cross special celebrations
- Annual meetings and conferences of the National Council, Divisional Councils, Zones and Branches
- ANZAC Day functions
- Remembrance Day functions
- Funerals of members
- Any official function for which the wearing of medals is specified

Red Cross and State awards are worn on the right breast. Personnel in Red Cross uniform may wear ribbons in place of medals, but no awards are worn on uniform overcoats. Official national decorations, medals or ribbons (not Red Cross) are worn on the left breast.

The Florence Nightingale Medal may be worn by military service personnel in accordance with the relevant Regulations.

2. Precedence

Red Cross medals or ribbons are worn with the senior medal or ribbon nearest the lapel¹. The order of precedence is:

Henry Dunant Medal	medal
Florence Nightingale Medal	medal (<i>see note below on wearing*</i>)
Honorary Life Membership	medal
Medal of Honour	medal
Distinguished Service Award	medal
Outstanding Service Award	medal
Distinguished Staff Award	medal
Meritorious Service Award	medal
Youth Meritorious Service Award	badge
Long Service Medal	medal
Service Award	badge
Volunteers Award 2001	medal
Unofficial or Divisional Award Medals	
Foreign Red Cross Awards in date order	
Other non-Red Cross medals in date order	

¹ Care should be taken when having medals mounted, as regalia shops, and others, are used to mounting military medals, of which Australian Red Cross medals and ribbons are the reverse.

*The Florence Nightingale Medal is worn separately above other Red Cross medals or ribbons (because of its nature), although the Henry Dunant Medal takes precedence.

Red Cross awards may be worn with the uniforms of other organisations if that organisation permits. For example, the Army permits the wearing of the Florence Nightingale Medal, or ribbon, on the right breast according to the relevant Regulation. In those circumstances the awards of the other organisation would have priority in wearing precedence.

3. Medals

Medals, when worn, are suspended from the appropriate ribbon 4cm in length. The senior medal is worn nearest the lapel and on the top row when more than one row is necessary. They are to be worn in order of precedence and may be attached individually, suspended from a bar, or court mounted. Five medals are worn to complete a row.

3.1. Badges

Badges may be worn at any time.

When medals are worn in civilian dress, the badges for awards are worn below the medals. Australian Red Cross presents awards in the form of a badge for:

- Youth Meritorious Service Award
- Service Award

3.2. Honorary Life Membership Badge or Brooch

The badge is only worn with civilian dress or when medals are not being worn. Both men and women may wear it on the left lapel. If an Australian Honour badge is being worn, the ARC badge may be worn on the right lapel. Women may wear the brooch at the throat of a blouse.

3.3. Youth Meritorious Service Award

If more than one badge is worn, the Red Cross Youth Meritorious Service Award takes precedence and is worn nearest the lapel.

3.4. Red Cross Service Award

The Service Award should not be mounted on a ribbon, nor attached to any other award.

When wearing Red Cross uniform, a chevron may replace the Service Award badge. The chevron is worn on the left sleeve with the point 5cm from the bottom of the cuff or, on short sleeves 2.5cm from the bottom of the sleeve.

3.5. Other badges

Normally no other badges would be worn on Red Cross uniform; however, the brooches for citations from other Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies may be worn below medals and after Australian Red Cross badges.

3.6. Ribbons

The ribbons of awards may be worn on uniforms on ribbon bars. The senior ribbon is worn nearest the lapel and on the top row when more than one row is necessary. Three ribbons are worn to complete a row and if a fourth award is made the senior ribbon is worn alone in the centre of the top row – and so on. Ribbon bars are 9mm wide and worn 6mm above the top of the uniform pocket or similar position if the garment has no pocket.

A Note on Membership Badges, Name Badges and similar items

Membership badges, name badges, badges celebrating particular occasions and similar items are not covered by this policy. They should not be worn as if they are awards, nor in conflict with the Regulations of any other organisation. Generally, the Australian Red Cross membership badge will be worn on the left lapel.