

FAQ – Governor General Patronage

Lions Australia is honoured to announce the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), has accepted the role of Patron following a formal submission made by the Lions Australia National Board.

Lions Australia Executive Officer, Rob Oerlemans, said, “We are privileged the Governor-General has accepted our invitation to be Patron.

His patronage is reflective of the work of Lions in diverse areas such as humanitarian service, disaster relief, sight, medical research, and youth programs.

The Governor General is an inspiration to all Australians and will similarly inspire Lions in their work within their communities,” Mr Oerlemans said.

Prior to taking up his position as Governor-General, His Excellency had a highly distinguished military career.

In 1971 he was awarded the Military Cross for his performance and leadership while serving in Vietnam, and came to further national attention when, in 1999 as Commander of the International Task Force East Timor (INTERFET), he was responsible for overseeing that country’s transition to independence. For his leadership in this role he was promoted to Companion in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (AC).

Promoted to Lieutenant General, he was appointed Chief of Army in 2000. After further promotion to General, he served as Chief of the Defence Force from 2002-2005. He retired from the Australian Defence Force in 2005.

He was sworn-in as Governor-General on 25 March 2014.

Contacting the Governor General

It is important to note there are strict protocols around how the Governor-General should be referred to and which photos may be used (there are several available on the Governor General’s website <https://www.gg.gov.au/>) Any media releases also have to be pre-approved by the Governor-General’s office before they can be published.

The Governor-General is also extremely busy and, for this reason, and out of respect for the Governor General’s Office, any invitations for His Excellency to attend Lions functions should be submitted to the Lions Australia National Office.