



A WELCOME MESSAGE TO NEW AUSTRALIANS

The Welcome Message activity allows students to write or draw a message of welcome to new Australian citizens. Using the templates provided on the [Department of Home Affairs website](#), students' work can be hung in the classroom or provided to your local council where they can be gifted to new citizens as a special keepsake at their citizenship ceremony.

You can contact your local council directly to discuss the activity, and to find out whether they would like to receive these messages.

Writing the message

There is no right or wrong as to what could be included in a welcome message – the possibilities are endless. Students are encouraged to use their own personal experiences from life in Australia to create a truly unique message for the new citizens. In addition to the message of welcome, students (particularly in younger grades), may also wish to draw a picture that represents Australia.

To help provide ideas to include in the welcome messages, teachers may find it useful for students to answer some of the following questions about themselves and new citizens. You can encourage students to draw from their responses to develop a heartfelt message for new citizens.

- Country where I was born
- Country my parent(s)/caregiver(s) were born
- Countries where my grandparents were born
- My favourite Australian animal (and why)
- What I think new citizens would like most about Australia
- What I would miss most about being away from Australia
- What being an Australian citizen means to me
- What would you say to someone who has just arrived in Australia?
- What do you like most about living in Australia?
- What advice would you give to new Australian citizens?
- What are some kind words or phrases you could use to say to new citizens to make them feel welcomed and included in Australia?

Students may also wish to use the following prompts as a lead-in sentence to their welcome message:

- I hope your life in Australia ...
- Thank you for ...
- I hope you love ...
- I suggest that you try ... (food, sports, activities etc.)
- I recommend that you visit/watch/listen to ... (favourite Australian places, TV shows, movies, podcasts etc.)
- Some interesting facts about Australia are ...

Sample Welcome Messages


Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Celebrating
AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

A WELCOME MESSAGE TO NEW CITIZENS

Welcome to the Australian family.
Amazing new home.
United together.
Smile you're home.
Take a deep breath vegemite isn't
that scary.
Remember this is your home.
All of Australia is happy you're here.
Live in the sunshine of Australia
Indigenous Australian
dreamtime stories are the best.
Australia is your home
don't be shy.

Love Abby



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A WELCOME MESSAGE TO NEW CITIZENS

Congratulations on Your Australian Citizenship!!



Love Abby

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A WELCOME MESSAGE TO NEW CITIZENS

Hi new Aussie,
I'm glad you are here and
am giving you a big
welcome hug through
this message.
You are now part of
Australia's loooooong history.

From
Koen



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A WELCOME MESSAGE TO NEW CITIZENS

Dear new Australian citizen
welcome! I'm glad you
have chosen Australia as
your home.
Thank you for sharing
your culture, ideas, food
and stories.
you make our country richer
love Ash

