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RYDE TO STAGE GROUP ONLINE CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES DURING LOCKDOWN

Hundreds of residents in the City of Ryde will become Australian citizens during lockdown after Council received permission to stage online citizenship ceremonies with multiple attendees.

Previously during the 2020 lockdown, online citizenship ceremonies were only allowed to take place one resident at a time, but the Federal Government has now given permission for the City of Ryde to stage them with multiple attendees.

As a result, the City of Ryde will stage three ceremonies on 6 August, which will enable 72 residents to become citizens. This will be followed by an additional six ceremonies on 13 August, which will mean a further 288 residents will become citizens.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions over the past 18 months had meant there was a large number of people in the City of Ryde who are waiting to become Australian citizens.

"In the doom and gloom of the current lockdown, this is finally some positive news that we can look forward to," Cllr Laxale said.

"As the son of migrants, my parents always told me how special a moment it was on the day they became Australian citizens, so I am delighted that we will be able to stage these online ceremonies and see hundreds of local residents receive their Australian citizenship.

"I would like to thank the Department of Home Affairs for its assistance to allow us to stage these online ceremonies with multiple attendees."

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