

CHAPTER 9

CIVILIAN CLOTHING

General

9.1 Members are permitted to have civilian clothing (plain clothes) in their possession on board ships and establishments. Such clothing may be worn whilst on authorised leave and whilst leaving or returning to ships and establishments on/from authorised leave. When considering civilian attire, personnel are to consider whether the appearance would, or is likely to present a poor image of the Navy. Civilian clothing may also be worn on duty on those occasions prescribed in this chapter.

9.2 When civilian clothing is worn all members of the RAN are to be aware that:

- a. In wearing civilian clothes they remain in all respects subject to the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982*.
- b. No additional stowage or washing facilities for civilian clothes in ships and submarines is guaranteed.
- c. The Service accepts no liability for loss of or damage to civilian clothes. Only when members are ordered to wear civilian clothes will compensation be allowable for loss of or damage to affected items in certain circumstances.
- d. RAN identity cards are to be carried when in civilian clothes.
- e. Service uniform clothing items are not to be worn with civilian clothing.
- f. The wearing of civilian headdress is optional, but members must take adequate precautions against exposure to the sun.

Personnel on special duty

9.3 Personnel attending civilian colleges or universities may wear civilian clothes at all times, according to the standards defined by the relevant Commanding Officer (CO).

Naval Police Coxswain investigators

9.4 Naval Police Coxswain investigators may wear plain clothes whilst employed on duties involving:

- a. operations, training or liaison with civilian law enforcement authorities;
- b. investigations of a delicate or sensitive nature where uniform is inappropriate; or
- c. investigations conducted outside naval units.

Standards

9.5 Plain clothes worn on board, and on leaving or returning to Her Majesty's Australian (HMA) ships and establishments, are worn at the discretion of the CO. The CO may suspend the wearing of plain clothes for any individual or group of individuals whose personal dress and appearance is considered to present a poor image of the service.

9.6 CO will from time to time define acceptable standards, paying due regard to community standards, season and location. The following are minimum acceptable standards:

- a. clothes must be clean, laundered and pressed, and not torn in any way;

- b. jewellery is to be modest and conservative, earrings or ear studs are to be the only form of body piercing jewellery visible, and no more than two may be worn in each ear—attention is drawn to chapter 5.5 to 5.11;
- c. mottos on clothing are not to be offensive to any member of the naval or local civilian population;
- d. shoes are to be clean and in a state of good repair (including runners);
- e. thongs and ugh boots are to be worn only in the confines of living quarters; and
- f. all members are to be modestly attired in public areas (ie no bare midriffs etc).

9.7 No item of civilian clothing is to present a safety hazard.

Civilian clothes worn on duty

9.8 Civilian clothes worn on duty are to be of a tailored business style that will bring credit to the service. Commanding Officers will promulgate standards for civilian clothes on duty in Standing Orders. Fundraising activities that require a relaxation in dress standards are permissible with CO approval. The CO is to be cognisant of any Operational Health and Safety factors.

9.9 Personnel posted to Navy Headquarters are required to wear the prescribed uniform on duty, including travel on duty to naval establishments. Exceptions to this rule are permitted where external Service commitments make wearing plain clothes desirable and/or in circumstances when the wearing of uniform could cause reproach to the RAN. However, general guidelines for wearing civilian clothes on duty are as follows:

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS	
Male Attire	Female Attire
Tailored Business Suit	Tailored business style dress
Tailored classic style slacks	Coordinated skirt and jacket
Shirt, short or long sleeve- must be business like with collar. Long sleeve shirt must be worn with tie. No obvious loud colours or patterns	Colour coordinated casuals such as skirt and blouse, slacks and business style shirt.
Sports Jacket - Classic tailored style	Coordinated business style slacks and jacket
Classic style sweater or cardigan	Tailored slacks
Conservative shoes and socks	Classic style sweater or cardigan
	Only one pair of earrings/studs
	Conservative shoes, stockings / pantyhose

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS	
Male Attire	Female Attire
Jeans, non tailored pants	Jeans, non tailored slacks
Non tailored shorts	Shorts, skirts shorter than 5cm above the knee
Collarless shirts, T-shirts, tank tops	T-shirts, tank tops, sleeveless shirts and casual dresses. Any item with tassels.
Sandal type footwear of any type	Backless, sheer clothing, sun dresses
Ugh boots, scuffs, runners, desert boots	Apparel which displays a bare midriff
Earrings	Desert boots, ugh boots, scuffs, thongs or beach sandals

CIVILIAN GUESTS

9.10 The appropriate dress for civilian guests invited to functions in HMA ships and establishments is as follows:

DRESS	OCCASIONS FOR WEAR	CIVILIAN EQUIVALENT
S1/W1 S2/W2 S3/W3	On ceremonial occasions. with medals (swords for officers) with medals with ribbons	Male: Suit and tie Female: Business style suit or dress. (Decorations are to be worn if ordered)
S4/W4	When attending official or public balls, dinners or evening receptions of a formal nature When Officers of Flag Rank or Army or Air Force officers of corresponding rank, wearing uniform are dinner guests	Male: Evening dress, or dinner jacket. Female: Long Ball Dress (Decorations are to be worn if ordered)
S5/W5	When required as formal eveningwear for occasions other than those requiring Dress W4/S4. When attending dinner in harbour at the tables of Flag Officers, Commodores, and at the tables of Army and Air Force Officers of corresponding ranks unless Dress S4/W4 is ordered	Male: Dinner Jacket Female: Cocktail Dress
S6	Informal evening wear in summer	Male: Open neck, collared shirt, tailored trousers. If jacket is worn, tie should also be worn. Female: Dress, trouser/skirt/blouse combinations (equivalent standard to male dress)
S7/W7 S8	Non ceremonial occasions from dawn to dusk	Male and Female: Tailored, business style clothing.