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MEDIA RELEASE

PERTH MINT ISSUES AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP \$1 COIN

The Perth Mint has launched a commemorative \$1 coin portraying the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and the words 'Australian Citizenship'.

Perth Mint Sales and Marketing Director Ron Currie said the coin was an important addition to the nation's collectable coin issues which offered people the chance to celebrate the significance of their Australian citizenship.

"Just sixty years ago, most people living in Australia were regarded as British subjects," he said. "On 26 January 1949, however, people born here automatically became Australian citizens under the *Nationality and Citizenship Act*. For the first time, we could truly call ourselves Australians."

In the words of the Commonwealth Government, Australian citizenship symbolises our unity as a nation. It represents a commitment to Australia and its people, the values we share and our common future.

More and more people who choose to make Australia home are embracing the status of Australian citizenship. Since the first citizenship ceremony took place on 3 February 1949 at Albert Hall in Canberra, more than 4 million migrants have made the pledge of commitment to Australia. A record 169,123 people became Australian citizens during 2006/2007.

Mr Currie said that the new Australian legal tender coin was a superb memento for all Australians, whether a citizen by birth or by choice. "It is a fantastic keepsake that will constantly remind people about their good fortune at being an Australian citizen," he said.

"The commemorative will also allow new citizens to mark the year in which they were naturalised, as each annual release will display a new year-date."

With an unrestricted mintage, the base metal coin is priced within reach of most Australians. Depicting the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the 2009 year-date on the obverse, it comes on a coloured presentation card depicting iconic Australian symbols. The card, which incorporates a Certificate of Authenticity, also features a fold-out stand for proud display.

Available from The Perth Mint Shop, located at 310 Hay Street, East Perth, or on FREECALL 1800 098 817, the new Australian Citizenship \$1 Coin retails for \$12.95. Purchasers may also order online at www.perthmint.com.au or check availability with their coin dealer, including Australia Post.

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PICTURE EDITORS

Images of the Australian Citizenship \$1 Coin can be found and downloaded from <http://www.perthmint.com.au/product-photography-distributors.aspx>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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