ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT

For over 40000 years Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have inhabited the Australian continent. They developed their own tribal laws and decision-making processes.

1788 The first colony, New South Wales, settled by the British. It was ruled by a governor appointed by the British government.

1800s Six self-governing colonies are established with similar forms of parliamentary government.

1855 NSW, VIC, TAS 1859 QLD
1856 SA 1890 WA
1898-1900 Referendums on the Constitution held in all six colonies.

FEDERATION

1901
1 January Inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia.
29-30 March First federal election held according to state electoral laws.

1902 Commonwealth Franchise Act and Commonwealth Electoral Act passed.

1903 Federal election held under Commonwealth Electoral Act.

1998 Constitutional Convention held to discuss issues about whether Australia should become a republic.

1999 Referendum held to vote to on the proposal that Australia become a republic. A majority of people voted NO.

2001 Centenary of Federation.