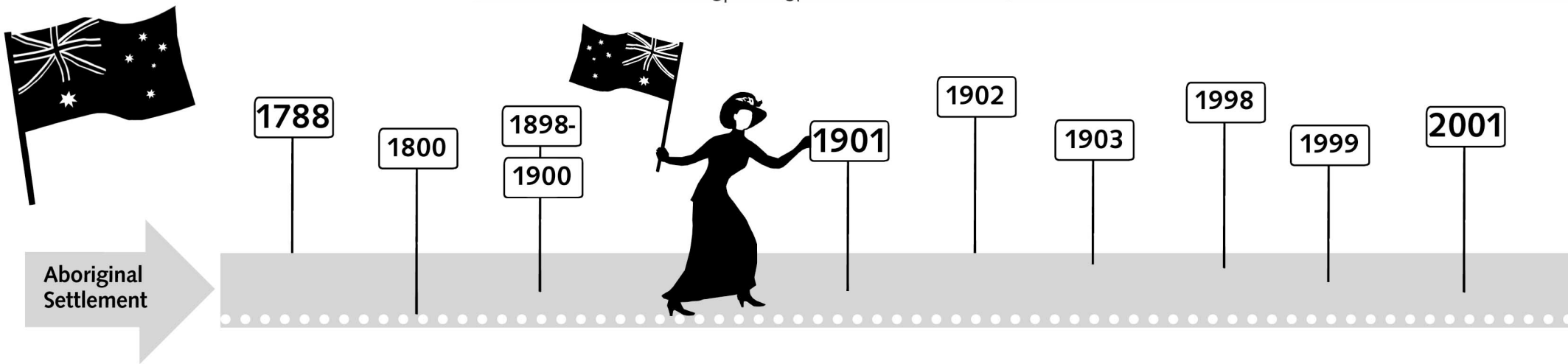


# Australia - A Federal Nation

Primary



## 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.

**9 May** Opening of first Commonwealth Parliament in Victorian State Parliament building, Melbourne.

**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.