



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

## Commonwealth Coat of Arms

The Commonwealth Coat of Arms symbolises the ownership and authority of the Australian Government.

It was granted in a Royal Warrant in 1912.

### About the Commonwealth Coat of Arms

The Commonwealth Coat of Arms is an emblem signifying the national unity of Australia.

Symbols of Australia's six states appear together on the shield, which is the central feature of a coat of arms. The border of the shield symbolises federation.

The national floral emblem, the golden wattle, frames the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The kangaroo and emu are the native animals that hold the shield with pride. Some say the kangaroo and emu were chosen to symbolise a nation moving forward. This is based on the common belief that neither animal can move backwards easily.

A coat of arms is granted by the Sovereign and is a sign of identity and authority.

### History

King Edward VII made the first official grant of a coat of arms to the Commonwealth of Australia on 7 May 1908.

The first Commonwealth Coat of Arms showed the kangaroo and emu supporting the shield and standing on a grassy mound. The shield displayed the cross of St George.

King George V made Australia's second grant of arms in a Royal Warrant dated 19 September 1912. The significant change was to include the symbols of the states on the shield.



*The first official Coat of Arms granted to the Commonwealth of Australia was made by King Edward VII in a Royal Warrant of 7 May 1908*



*The Commonwealth Coat of Arms is the official mark of Commonwealth authority and the Arms are not available for general public use*

### Use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms

The Commonwealth Coat of Arms is the official mark of Commonwealth authority.

The Commonwealth Coat of Arms is not available for public use.

Permission must be granted to reproduce the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. Use without permission may be in breach of legislation.

### Fast facts

#### FIRST COMMONWEALTH COAT OF ARMS GRANTED:

7 May 1908

#### SECOND COMMONWEALTH COAT OF ARMS GRANTED:

19 September 1912

#### DESCRIPTION:

The shield displays symbols of the six states. The supporters of the shield are the kangaroo and emu. Australia's floral emblem, the golden wattle, frames the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. A scroll contains the word 'Australia'. A gold Commonwealth Star sits above the shield. A wreath of gold and blue sits under the Commonwealth Star.

#### USE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COAT OF ARMS:

Not available for general public use.

### More information

IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au)