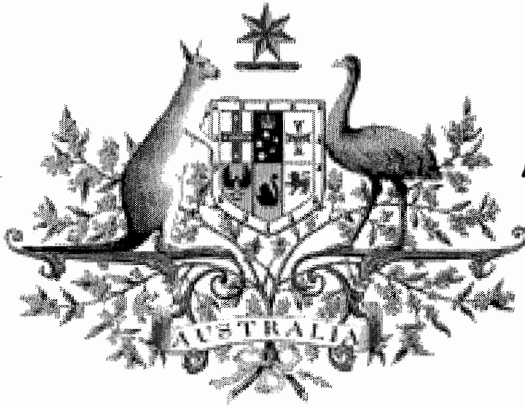




Kangaroo Footprints



THE COAT OF ARMS



Australia's national coat of arms shows the red kangaroo and emu supporting a shield on which the six state crests are shown.

The six crests signify the joining or federation of the six states into the Commonwealth of Australia. At the top of the coat of arms is a gold star with seven points. That represents the seven states and territories.

It is thought that the kangaroo and emu were chosen for the coat of arms to symbolise a nation moving forward. That's because people believed that neither the kangaroo nor the emu could easily move backwards. The red kangaroo and the emu are supporting a shield against a background of wattle. Underneath is a scroll that says AUSTRALIA.

The coat of arms is used by the government of Australia to signify its authority in carrying out official business. An Australian passport has the coat of arms on the front. Where have you seen the coat of arms used?

FAST FACTS

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