

## Fiche

### 1. Basic facts

<b>Official title</b>	the Commonwealth of Australia
<b>Capital city</b>	Canberra
<b>Currency</b>	Australian dollar
<b>Area</b>	7,618,000 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Population</b>	22,620,600

### 2. Significant characteristics

- the sixth largest country in the world;
- one of the most sparsely populated countries;
- one of the most urbanised countries: most people live and work in a city or town;
- comprises the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania + numerous smaller islands.

### 3. Key dates

<b>40,000 years ago</b>	The Aborigines migrated from Asia and settled in Australia.
<b>1770</b>	Captain James Cook discovered Australia and claimed it for England.
<b>1788-1853</b>	The British transported convicts to Australia. The first white settlers in Australia were convicts, their guards and tradesmen.
<b>1901</b>	the six Australian colonies federated to form a single Commonwealth.

### 4. Key concepts

The 'Stolen Generation' is the term used to refer to the tens of thousands of aboriginal and half-caste children who were forcibly removed from their families by the Australian government between 1900 and 1972. The aim was to 'civilize' them by raising them in white foster families<sup>(1)</sup> where they worked as servants or farmhands.

The Australian government has since made an official apology.

(1)(familles d'accueil)