



Australia's banknotes represented a world first in currency manufacturing – they were the first full series to be printed on polymer (plastic). Polymer banknote technology was developed in Australia, jointly by the Reserve Bank and the CSIRO. The reason for introducing polymer banknotes was simple – to keep one step ahead of counterfeiters by making Australia's banknotes more secure. Polymer banknotes have the added benefit of being more durable than paper banknotes which, in turn, makes them more cost-effective.

The designs of the banknotes celebrate the diversity of Australia's social, cultural and scientific achievements.

The \$100 polymer banknote was first issued on 15 May 1996.



### Dealing with suspect banknotes

It is an offence to knowingly possess counterfeits. Suspect banknotes should be given to State or Federal police.

If you have concerns about a banknote, you are within your rights to refuse to accept it.

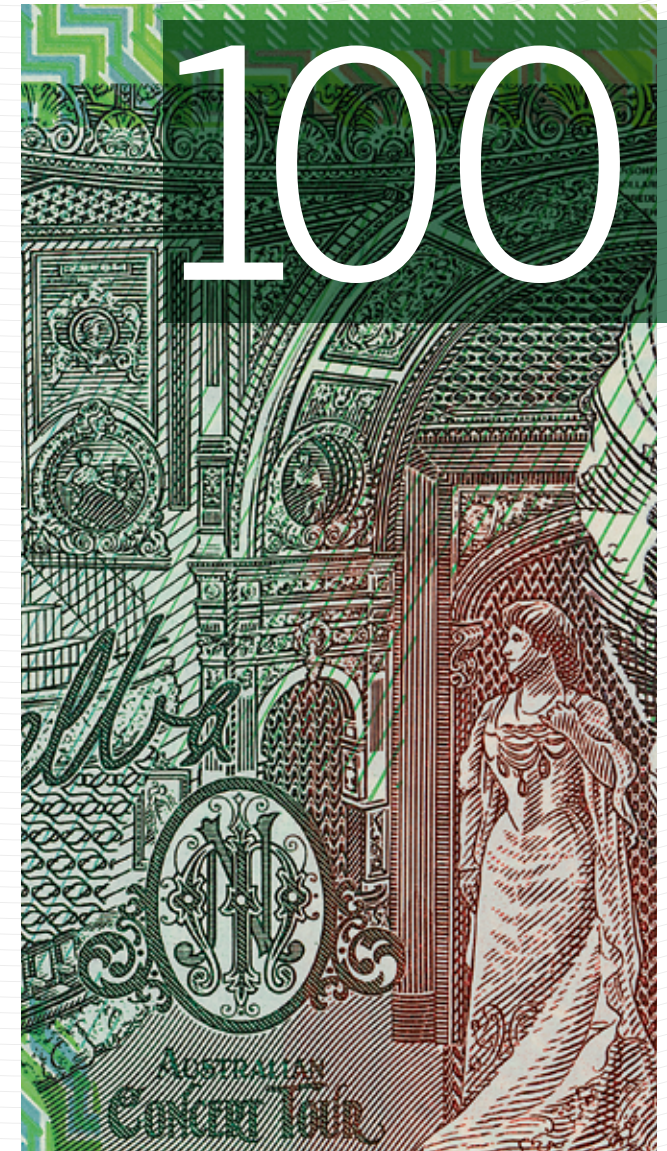
If you suspect a banknote is counterfeit:

- Handle it as little as possible.
- Note relevant information, such as how it came into your possession.
- Report the matter immediately to the police.

Do not take actions that may jeopardise your safety or the safety of others.

If the suspect banknote is found to be genuine, you will receive full value for it.

## AUSTRALIA'S BANKNOTES



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## \$100 banknote

### Who's who on the \$100 banknote

In her lifetime, Dame Nellie Melba achieved international recognition as a soprano. Melba debuted in 1887 in Verdi's *Rigoletto* in Brussels and went on to sing with great success in London, Paris, Milan, New York and other major cities. Her most famous role was Mimi in Puccini's *La Bohème*. Although she toured the world, Melba found time for civic work in Australia, including raising funds for war charities. Dame Nellie's homecoming in 1902 involved an Australian and New Zealand concert tour (the tour program is depicted on the banknote).

Sir John Monash, a soldier, engineer and administrator, was one of Australia's greatest military commanders. During World War I, Monash served in Gallipoli and on the Western Front. His greatest victory was at Hamel. This battle inspired a succession of victories, culminating in the breaking of the Hindenburg Line. Throughout the 1920s, Sir John maintained a strong public profile, represented returned soldiers and frequently advised on military and engineering matters. He held a number of prominent civilian positions, including head of Victoria's State Electricity Commission. Towards the end of his life, Sir John was instrumental in the building of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

#### Did you know?

Dame Nellie Melba was born Helen Porter Mitchell. After travelling to Europe in 1886, she adopted the stage name 'Melba' in homage to her home town.

#### Did you know?

As Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, Sir John Monash streamlined procedures for the repatriation of Australian soldiers and presided over the Australian Imperial Forces Education Scheme, which assisted their transition to civilian life.

### Is your banknote genuine?

- Always check a range of security features – don't rely on only one or two.
- It can be useful to compare a suspect banknote with one you know is genuine. Look for differences.
- All Australian banknotes have similar security features, though their location can vary.

#### 1. Feel the banknote

Australian banknotes are printed on plastic and have a distinct feel. The dark printing is produced with a special raised ink that can be felt with your finger.

#### 2. Check the clear window

The clear window should be part of the banknote and not an addition. Check that the white image of a lyrebird cannot be easily rubbed off and look for the clear embossing of the number '100'.

#### 3. Look for the star

Diamond-shaped patterns are printed inside a circle on each side of the banknote. When the banknote is held up to the light, the patterns should line up perfectly to form a seven-pointed star.

#### 4. Check the shadow image

A hidden image of the Australian Coat of Arms to the right of Dame Nellie Melba's portrait can be seen when the banknote is held up to the light.

#### 5. Look for the microprinting

Under a magnifying glass you will see tiny, clearly defined words that read 'ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS' and the number '100'.



Actual banknote dimensions: 65 mm x 158 mm (images not to scale)

### Examine the plastic

It is difficult to start a tear along the edge of a genuine banknote. You can also try scrunching it in your hand – a genuine banknote should spring back when you release it.

### Check the print quality

The background printing should be sharp. Check for irregularities such as less clearly defined patterns, thicker or thinner lines, or colour differences.

### Look at the banknote under UV light

The serial numbers on a genuine banknote will glow under ultraviolet light, along with a patch showing the value i.e. '100'. The rest of the banknote should not glow under this light.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: 1800 633 220

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