

## **Australians reject conscription in the First World War (1951)**

NARRATOR 1: That was 1916 when things were tough, but we knew the people back home were thinking of us, when Billy Hughes turned up at the front.

NARRATOR 2: In 1916 the Prime Minister returned to Australia. He had seen the fighting fronts. The Prime Minister argued for conscription. Australia needed more soldiers. By referendum in 1916 and 1917 the people rejected the proposals. Recruiting was intensified. There were campaigns in every city. Men were needed, and so was money.