

annual report 2016–17

This annual report summarises the activities and performance of the Audit Office of New South Wales for 2016–17 against the main goals, strategies and targets in its strategic plan. As well as reporting on the financial results for the past year, the report looks to the year ahead. This and earlier annual reports are available on our website.

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Our insights inform and challenge government to improve outcomes for citizens

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Under section 12A of the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*, I have pleasure in submitting for the information of members this report of the activities of the Audit Office of New South Wales for the year ended 30 June 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Crawford'.

Margaret Crawford
Auditor-General

11 September 2017

Cover: 'Yarning Circle' by Caitlin Liddle, Audit Office Indigenous Internship Program participant.

'The centre is a meeting place to symbolise the Audit Office, and sitting around this is a number of people in different colours to show our diversity. The dotting around the people signifies the conversations of acceptance that can occur when cultures combine.'

Caitlin Liddle

See page 49 for details on our Indigenous Internship Program.

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The history of the Auditor-General

- 1824** William Lithgow appointed Colonial Auditor-General, to compile and examine the colony's accounts and report on government departments to the Governor.
- 1855** The *UK Constitution Act 1855* formalised government in New South Wales, and the Auditor-General was made a member of the government.
- 1870** Powers and duties of the Auditor-General first set in legislation, in the *Audit Act 1870*.
- 1902** *Audit Act 1902* prohibited the Auditor-General from being a member of the Executive Council or of the parliament.
- 1929** *Audit (Amendment) Act 1929* changed the tenure of office of the Auditor-General from life to ceasing at 65.
- 1984** *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* established the Auditor-General's Office (6 January 1984).
- 1989** Auditor-General's Office declared a statutory body, allowing it to be both more independent and more commercial.
- 1991** The *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* expanded the Auditor-General's role to include performance audits, limited tenure to seven years (no age limit), and prevented acceptance of any other post in the NSW public service.
- 2001** Auditor-General's role expanded to report on issues of waste, probity and financial judgement.
- 2004** Auditor-General given power to employ staff directly, and set wages and conditions.
- 2013** Tenure of Auditor-General extended to eight years.
- 2016** The *Local Government Act 1993* expanded the Auditor-General's mandate to include financial and performance auditing of local government.

