

[Return to Graphics Mode](#)

VAGO

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You are in

[VAGO](#) > [About Us](#) > History of VAGO

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Main Sections

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Reports & Publications](#) | [Audits in progress](#) | [Career Centre](#) | [Tenders](#) | [Links](#)

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Current links

[Role of the Auditor-General](#)

[Audit Legislation](#)

[Corporate Information](#)

[History of VAGO](#)

[Corporate Publications](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Audit Responsibilities by Year](#)

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## History of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office

When the Colony of Victoria was proclaimed (1 July 1851), Charles Ebdon was appointed to the Legislative Council as the first Auditor-General at an annual salary of \$1 200. His role was to audit the costs, charges and expenses incurred in the collection, maintenance and receipt of revenue under the direction of the UK Parliament. The Audit Office staff of 1851 consisted of 6 people.

In 1857, the position of Auditor-General was replaced by a group of 3 Commissioners of Audit, under an Act of parliament setting out the basis of public sector auditing. With Federation in 1901, and the creation of Victoria as a state, came a new Audit Act. The Act re-established the position of Auditor-General and emphasised his independence. The Act also confirmed the duties and responsibilities the Auditor-General was to perform on parliament's behalf.

By the turn of the century, the Office had 59 staff who audited over \$200 million of government expenditure. Today, we have a staff of around 150, and we are responsible for auditing around \$40 billion of government expenditure.

The people who have held the position of Auditor-General since 1851 are listed below:

Charles Hotson Ebdon	1851 - 1852	Auditor-General
Hugh Culling Earley Childers	1852 - 1853	Auditor-General
Edward Grimes	1853 - 1857	Auditor-General
Charles Hunt Symonds	1857 - 1886	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
Francis Jones	1857 - 1885	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
Alfred Agg	1857 - 1886	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
T W Jackson	1885 - 1894	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
Alfred William Howitt	1895 - 1902	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
J W Fosberry	1887 - 1901	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
Arthur Moorah	1890 - 1902	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
T R Wilson	1894 - 1895	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
Charles Alfred Topp	1901 - 1902	One of 3 Commissioners of Audit
James Bagge	1902	Auditor-General

James Hamilton Reid	1902 - 1903	Auditor-General
Frederick Horatio Bruford	1903 - 1919	Auditor-General
John Alexander Norris	1919 - 1937	Auditor-General
Edward A Peverill	1938 - 1957	Auditor-General
Redvers William Gillard	1957 - 1965	Auditor-General
Arthur John Alliance Gardner	1965 - 1970	Auditor-General
Bruce Hamilton	1970 - 1977	Auditor-General
Brian Joseph Waldron	1977 - 1986	Auditor-General
Richard Humphry	1986 - 1988	Auditor-General
Chesleigh Antony Baragwanath	1988 - 1999	Auditor-General
Wayne Cameron	1999 - 2006	Auditor-General
Des Pearson	2006 - present	Auditor-General

Biographical information on all Auditors-General listed upto Wayne Cameron can be found in the publication ["In the public interest - 150 years of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office"](#).

## Quicklinks

[Return to Graphics Mode](#)