Dominic Perrottet MP
Minister for Finance, Services & Property

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW PUBLIC SERVICE WAR SERVICE HONOURED

NSW Minister for Finance, Services and Property Dominic Perrottet today officially opened "*Public Service / War Service",* an exhibition at State Records which honours the efforts of NSW government employees during World War 1.

"Commemorating the Centenary of Anzac, this exhibition pays tribute to our public servants who served overseas or fulfilled essential services at home, as well as the wartime roles performed by government departments," Minister Perrottet said. "Their contributions to the nation's war efforts were invaluable and indispensable."

More than 11,000 of the state's 63,400 government employees volunteered for military service overseas during World War 1. Of those, more than 1,600 or 15 per cent were killed. Nearly 8,500 of the employees who enlisted were railway workers and they were joined by more than 2,300 public servants and 217 police officers.

The exhibition presents a selection of stories from the lives of NSW railway and harbour workers, teachers, administrators, printers, nurses, clerks, draftsmen, politicians and police.

Some of the stories include:
- William Crockett and his son Willie from Sydney Harbour Trust, who died within a fortnight of each other on the Western Front
- Major General William Holmes, Secretary and Chief Clerk of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage
- Harold Bindoff, an Aboriginal locomotive fireman who enlisted with his two brothers
- Romola Koester who became the first female railway booking clerk at a time when thousands of railway men had enlisted for overseas service.

The exhibition also highlights how government departments such as the Government Printing Office, Sydney Harbour Trust, NSW Munitions Committee, Department of Education and NSW Aviation School adapted to war-related roles and responsibilities and the changes they undertook to cover for the vacancies in the public sector.

An online index is available within the exhibition and on State Records' website at http://nswanzaccentenary.records.nsw.gov.au to search NSW government employees who were granted military leave or enlisted as nurses, military and navy personnel during WWI.

The *Public Service / War Service* exhibition is open to the public until Saturday 2 April 2016 at the State Records Western Sydney Records Centre, 143 O'Connell Street, Kingswood, NSW.

Opening times: 9am-5pm Monday to Friday and 10am-4pm Saturdays. Closed Public Holidays.

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