

# ATTENDING A VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH THE PAROLE BOARD QUEENSLAND

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Have you been asked to “appear before the Board”?

If so, the Board will use the video conferencing facilities that are available within all prisons and at each Community Corrections office across Queensland to hear directly from you.

Appearing before the Board will be a different experience to appearing at court. The Board wants to hear from you in your own words and encourages you to be open and engage in a conversation with the Board members.

## What does the Board want to talk about?

For details regarding the issues the Board would like to discuss, please refer to the letter from the Board. The letter will provide you with the date and time for the video conference and outline any concerns the Board may have or the areas that the Board would like you to provide further information on.

By way of example, the Board may wish to discuss one or more of the following:

- concerns regarding your proposed accommodation;
- what supports you have within the community;
- any health concerns and how these will be managed in the community;
- your commitment to rehabilitation;
- your attitude towards concerns regarding domestic violence;
- any challenges you have faced whilst in the community including your relapse prevention plan;
- if your parole has been suspended – the circumstances surrounding your suspension;
- if you have had further incidents or breaches in custody – the circumstances regarding these incidents and your explanation for your behaviour

There may be concerns that you hold regarding your parole conditions and your ability to comply with those conditions. The video conference provides you with an opportunity to raise your concerns directly with the Board.

## How to prepare for the video conference

- Make notes and bring them with you if that will assist
- Be on time
- Bring any supporting documents
- Be honest
- Be calm

- Be prepared for a conversation that may be about a difficult subject matter. Please be assured that the Board will give you the necessary time and support to gather and express your thoughts or concerns or feelings.

### Who will be present?

At the video conference you will see the following members of the Board:

- Either the President or Deputy President of the Board
- A Professional Board member – a senior lawyer
- A Public Service representative – a representative from Corrective Services
- A Queensland Police Service representative
- A community representative

There may be times that a member of the Board is not visible on your screen as they have called in from regional Queensland.

Also present will be a staff member who will be taking the meeting minutes, working the equipment and ensuring the discussion is recorded.

### Can I ask for a support person?

Yes, you may ask for a support person to attend the video conference with you.

If you are in custody, you may wish to seek the support of a Cultural Liaison Officer, a representative from Prisoner Legal Service or Sisters Inside or other service provider.

### What happens next?

Following your appearance, the Board may need to discuss issues raised with your Community Corrections officer.

Once the video conference is complete, the Board will consider your submissions and the material before it and make a determination.

Please note that every video conference is recorded, and the Board will refer to these recordings if necessary.