

Parole Board | Queensland
Annual Report 2017-18



Queensland
Government



Parole Board Queensland

GPO Box 1054
Brisbane Queensland 4001

Telephone: 07 3406 3411

Email: ParoleBoardQLD@dcs.qld.gov.au

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services
Member for Morayfield
PO Box 15195
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of section 242F of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, I am pleased to present the Parole Board Queensland Annual Report 2017-18 detailing its operations and activities.

Yours sincerely

Michael Byrne QC
President
Parole Board Queensland

Parole Board Queensland Annual Report

Published by Parole Board Queensland
20 September 2018

© 2018

ISSN 2209-783X

Parole Board Queensland
State Law Building, 50 Ann St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 1054, Brisbane QLD 4001
Phone: 07 3227 7111

Internet: <https://corrections.qld.gov.au/parole-board-queensland>



Contents

President’s forward 4

Overview 5

Senior board members 6

Professional board members 7

Community board members..... 8-11

Organisational chart..... 12-13

Purpose, functions and activities 2017–18 14-17

Highlights 2017–18 18-19

Stakeholder engagement 2017–18 20



President's forward



On 3 July 2017, the Queensland Government established Parole Board Queensland (the Board) in response to recommendations made by Queensland Parole System Review (QPSR) conducted by Mr Walter Sofronoff QC (Final Report November 2016).

The Board operates as an independent statutory authority to ensure transparent, evidence-based parole decisions are made objectively and not dependent upon Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) authorities responsible for the case management and supervision of prisoners.

The strategic blueprint for the Board relies on QPSR recommendations.

During 2017–18 the Board focused on ensuring that evidence-based and transparent parole decisions are made.

To achieve these strategic outcomes, the Board implemented the following business activities:

- public hearings for prisoners subject to s.193A of the Corrective Services Act 2006 (CSA) (No Body No Parole)
- published No Body No Parole decisions and comprehensive reasons for the decisions
- established information-sharing protocols with key stakeholders such as Queensland Health
- engaged with Prisoners' Advisory Committees in relation to the Board's decision-making processes
- engaged with victim support groups in relation to the Board's decision-making processes
- attended law society conferences to communicate the facts and myths surrounding parole processes

- capped meeting matters to ensure members have sufficient time to prepare and properly consider each matter
- restructured secretariat functions to ensure continuity in the handling of parole files
- simplified and reduced the number of parole order conditions.

During 2018-20, the Board will focus on increasing the success of prisoners on parole and modernising its operations.

To achieve these strategic outcomes the Board will undertake the following business activities:

- publish parole decision-making guidelines
- publish guidelines to inform medical reports for exceptional circumstances parole applications
- host a No Body No Parole conference for key stakeholders
- continue to engage with accommodation service providers to overcome issues faced by parolees
- establish an independent Board website
- partner with QCS to scope and implement an electronic file management system for parole files.

The Deputy Presidents, Julie Sharp and Peter Shields, and I consider it a great privilege to have been appointed to the Board.

We acknowledge that parole is not a privilege or entitlement. Parole is a method developed to prevent re-offending and it plays an integral part in the criminal justice system.

When making parole decisions, the Board's highest priority will always be the safety of the community.

Michael Byrne QC
President
Parole Board Queensland



Overview

The Board presently has 38 member positions (13 full-time positions and 25 part-time positions):

- 1 x President
- 2 x Deputy Presidents
- 1 x Professional Board Member (Health)
- 3 x Professional Board Members (Legal)
- 25 x part-time Community Board Members
- 3 x Police Representatives
- 3 x Public Service Representatives.

The President, Deputy President, Professional Board Member and Community Board Member positions are **appointed** board members.

The President is equivalent to a Supreme Court Justice and the Deputy Presidents are equivalent to District Court Judges. The President and Deputy Presidents are appointed by Governor-in-Council and hold office for a term of five years. These board members may be reappointed but cannot hold office for more than 10 years in total.

Professional Board Members and Community Board Members are appointed by Governor-in-Council in consultation with the President and hold office for a term of three years. Professional Board Members and Community Board Members may be reappointed.

Professional Board Members must have a university or professional qualification that is relevant to the functions of the Board, including for example, a legal or medical qualification. Community Board Members do not require a formal qualification.

When recommending a person to Governor-in-Council for appointment as a Professional Board Member or Community Board Member, the Minister has regard to ensuring the Board represents the diversity of the Queensland community and in the membership of the Board there is:

- balanced gender representation
- representation of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

Police Representatives and Public Service Representatives are **nominated** board members. Nominated board members are respectively appointed by the Commissioner of Police and Commissioner, QCS for a period of 1-2 years. Public Service Representatives must have expertise or experience in probation and parole matters.

The Board is supported in performing its functions by a secretariat subject to the direction and management of the President. The secretariat includes three legal officers and 27 administration officers.

Full-time members generally perform their duties from the Board's premises located in Brisbane. Part-time members regularly attend board meetings using videoconference facilities located at various Probation and Parole District Offices throughout Queensland.

The Board operates each business day between 8am and 5pm, and provides a 24 hour 7 days a week on-call service for urgent parole suspension matters occurring outside business hours.

Parole Board Queensland Secretariat



Senior board members



President

Mr Michael Byrne QC

Michael Byrne QC was first called to the Bar in December 1977 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in December 1993.

He had an extensive private practice in the criminal justice field, as well as acting as the Director of Public Prosecutions and as a Judge of the District Court. He was the Commissioner for the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry.



Deputy President

Ms Sharp

Julie Sharp was admitted to practice as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1999 and holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of International Business Relations.

Ms Sharp is a highly qualified and experienced advocate who has successfully represented clients in the Magistrates Court, District Court, Supreme Court, Queensland Court of Appeal, and High Court of Australia. She has also represented clients in specialist tribunals including the Coroner's Court and the Industrial Magistrates Court.



Deputy President

Mr Shields

Peter Shields holds a Master of Laws with a major in public law, a Bachelor of Laws and a Diploma in Legal Practice.

He is admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland, the Supreme Court of New South Wales, as a Barrister and Solicitor of New Zealand and is entered in the Register of Practitioners of the High Court of Australia.

Mr Shields has had a highly successful career as a criminal investigator and was a leading criminal lawyer. At the time of his appointment, Mr Shields was accredited by the Queensland Law Society as a specialist in criminal law and was the Chairperson of the Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Section Committee, of which he has been a member since 2010.

Professional board members



Ms Kylie Anderson

Prior to her appointment, Ms Anderson was appointed to the position of Manager, Child Death Case Review Panels Secretariat, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and had held that position since February 2016. She has a Master of Laws, Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of International Relations. She has over 18 years' experience as a legal practitioner and has worked with organisations such as Legal Aid Queensland and the Public Solicitor's Office, Solomon Islands. Ms Anderson also has experience as a consultant, an adviser and senior manager with government and with international organisations such as The Asia Foundation and the United Nations Children's Fund.



Ms Valentina McKenzie

Valentina McKenzie was admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1994. She has previously worked at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from 1991–2002. Since 2003, she has worked at Prosecution Services, Workplace Health and Safety.

Presently, Ms McKenzie is acting as a Professional Board Member with the Board.



Ms Carolyn McAnally

From March 2015 and prior to her appointment Carolyn McAnally was Acting Director, Strategic Policy and Legal Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG). She has 20 years' legal experience in practical criminal law, and in the development and implementation of criminal law policy and legislation. Ms McAnally worked at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from 1999–2009, including as a Crown Prosecutor. From 2009, she worked in the criminal law team, and led the serious and organised crime team with DJAG.



Ms Beverley Russell

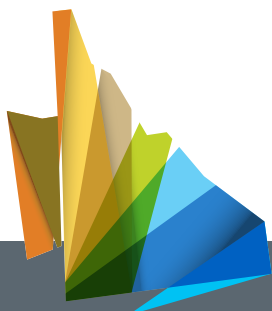
Beverley Russell holds postgraduate nursing qualifications in mental health, alcohol and drugs and a Master of Social Sciences with a major in criminology.

She was a member of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal from 2006–2011 and a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal from 2002–2008.

Prior to her appointment, Ms Russell was team leader for the Prison Mental Health Service with the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service.

Ms Barbara Kent

Barbara Kent is an experienced barrister with over 30 years' of professional experience. She was previously appointed to the Southern Queensland and Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Boards, the Mental Health Review Tribunal, the Chiropractic Board of Australia, the Chartered Accountants Appeals Tribunal, and as the Chair of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital District Health Council. Ms Kent resigned her position with the Board during June 2018 to uptake a position with the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.



Community board members



Marj Bloor

Marj Bloor holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Politics and Indigenous Studies. She was the Chief Executive Officer of Arafmi Queensland for 18 years until her retirement and a member of the Queensland Carers Advisory Council from 2009-2017.

She was awarded the Individual Award for Queensland Mental Health Week for her contribution to mental health in Queensland.



Chiu-Hing Chan

Chiu-Hing Chan was previously appointed to the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board. He holds a Master of Journalism, Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of International Relations.

He was awarded Young Queenslander of the Year in 2009 and nominated Young Australian of the Year in 2010. He is appointed to the National Board of Directors for White Ribbon Australia and is Chair of the Queensland White Ribbon Committee.



Dr Kee Cheung OAM

Dr Cheung holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Immunology. He was with the Group Laboratory Manager of Pathology Queensland until January 2018 when he retired from full-time work.

Dr Cheung has strong ties with the Chinese community and, in recognition of his service to the community in Queensland, he was conferred the Queensland Multicultural Service Award in 2000 and the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2013.



Jennifer Cullen

Jennifer Cullen is an Adjunct Associate Professor at James Cook University. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Synapse Australia Limited (formerly known as Brain Injury Association of Queensland).

Since 2013, she has played a leading role as a Council Member of the National Disability Insurance Agency Independent Advisory Council.



Nicole Cullen

Nicole Cullen holds a Bachelor of Laws and was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2002. She is currently employed as a Principal and Director at McKays Solicitors in Mackay, managing the family and domestic violence and criminal law divisions.



Dr Colin Dillon AM APM

Dr Dillon is an Indigenous Australian and a descendant of the Kumbumerri people of the Yugambeh nation whose traditional country covers all of Queensland's Gold Coast and its environs.

In 1967, he was the first of his people to join a police force anywhere in Australia. He served for 36 years' as a uniformed officer and plain clothes officer. In January 1992, he was awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) for his 'distinguished service to the Queensland Police Force'. He was engaged as the Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs to the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy from 2003-2006. In 2013, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the Indigenous community.



Jo-Anne Fitchett

Jo-Anne Fitchett holds a Bachelor of Laws and was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1983. She was the Deputy President of the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.



Emmanuel (Manny) Hegarty

Mr Hegarty is Regional Director, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership (DATSIP), Central Queensland Region. He has held senior positions in DATSIP for the past five years and has strong ties to the Indigenous community of Queensland.



Simone Jackson

Simone Jackson has over 25 years' experience in the public sector, working across various human service portfolios including corrections, youth justice, child protection and Indigenous affairs.

After a period in the Northern Territory leading out-of-home care reforms and contributing to the Royal Commission into Institutional Sexual Abuse, she returned to Queensland to an executive role in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.



Peter Kelly

Peter Kelly was admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1984. He has had over 34 years' experience as a Crown Prosecutor and Barrister in Queensland and Papua New Guinea. He specialises in criminal law and trial procedure.

Mr Kelly was previously appointed as a member to the Queensland Parole Board and acted in the role of Deputy President.



Francis (Frank) Lippett

Francis Lippett has practiced as a Barrister at the private Bar for more than 30 years'.

In 1990, he was appointed as President of the then Brisbane Community Corrections Board, and subsequently President of the then Queensland Corrections Board, where he served in a part-time capacity until 2001. He was also the Vice-President of the International Association of Paroling Authorities for two years and was invited to speak at parole

authority conferences in Australia, Canada and the United States.

Mr Lippett was appointed as a member of the Queensland Parole Board, and then Deputy President. He acted in the role of President for an extensive period until being appointed a Community Board Member of the Board.



Jocelyn Manique

Jocelyn Manique is a Chartered Accountant and has 22 years' experience in audit, investment, finance and governance.

She is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Grace College Council at the University of Queensland.



Karl McKenzie

Karl McKenzie was previously appointed to the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Central and North Queensland Regional Parole Board. He is also the Chair of the Townsville Community Justice Group and is a respected Aboriginal Elder in the Townsville community.



Kylie Mercer

Kylie Mercer was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2001. She has more than 17 years' experience in a range of public service legal and managerial roles.

Presently, Ms Mercer is the Registrar of the Board of Professional Engineers.

She has previous prior experience as the Executive Manager, Discipline and Appeals for the Queensland College of Teachers and was formerly a senior legal officer at Legal Aid Queensland where she held a range of positions including as a Drug Court lawyer.

Ms Mercer frequently acted as a Professional Board Member with the Board during 2017-18.



Gregory Moroney

Greg Moroney was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1976.

Mr Moroney is the Chair of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board in Queensland and is the Supreme Court's representative on the Law Admissions Consultative Committee.

He is also the Deputy Chair of LifeTec Australia Limited a not for profit company providing dedicated assistive technology services to enable people of all ages and abilities to actively engage in home, work, school and community life.



Francine O'Rourke

Francine O'Rourke is based in Cairns and is a community representative with strong ties to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. She is currently employed as the Indigenous Investigation Conciliation and Outreach Officer with the Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland.

Her roles include Co-Vice Chair of the Cairns White Ribbon committee. Prior to this, Ms O'Rourke held a variety of roles with the Department of Human Services (Centrelink).



Kerry Rees

Kerry Rees holds a Bachelor of Laws (2004) and was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2006. She currently runs a legal office in Yungaburra, Queensland.

Previously she was employed as Principal Solicitor with the Queensland Family Violence Legal Service (Cairns, Townsville, and Mount Isa) and has worked as a solicitor with an Indigenous Family Violence Service in Roma, Queensland.

Prior to her legal career, Ms Rees was employed as a Corrective Services Officer (1996–2005) and a Probation and Parole Officer.



Miranda Reid

Miranda Reid holds a Bachelor of Social Work (2000) and has been a private practitioner since 2013. She is a current Board Member of Teen Challenge Queensland, which provides residential rehabilitation programs for people with life-controlling drug addictions.

Ms Reid also has relevant experience in mental health, domestic violence and homelessness.



Malcolm Renouf

Malcolm Renouf served as a police officer and public servant from 1994–2012, holding a variety of roles including Officer in Charge, Holland Park Prosecutions and Crime Stoppers.

He has extensive experience in liaising with indigenous communities as well as multicultural communities.



Amanda Ritchie

Amanda Ritchie has more than 35 years' experience working at senior levels in the Australian Public Service. She held the position of General Manager, CRS Australia, formally known as Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services Australia from 2012–2015. In this role, she was responsible for delivering

employment services to customers with a disability.

She has previously held various roles including Chief Financial Officer and other senior community service roles in the Federal Department of Human Services, including Centrelink. In 2015, she received the Public Service Medal in recognition of her public service. Ms Ritchie currently holds a contracted position as General Manager, YWCA Queensland formerly known as the Young Women's Christian Association.



Gyl Stacey

Gyl Stacey has 35 years' of experience working in leadership roles, across public and private sector organisations and over 10 years' with the Queensland Police Service (QPS). She has a Bachelor of Business and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Ms Stacey is also Deputy Chair of the Board of Spinal Life Australia and is a passionate advocate on behalf of parolees with disabilities being supported as they reintegrate into society.



Janine Wiles

Janine Wiles holds a Bachelor of Arts and is a defence security professional with a focus on security and incident review. She has strong connections with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer community.

During 2017–18, two Community Board Members resigned from the Board: Jatinder Kaur and Helen Watkins.

Public Service Representatives

The Commissioner, QCS is responsible for nominating Public Service Representatives to the Board. The Public Service Representatives represent operational leaders in QCS, with expertise in the management of offenders who are subject to the supervision of the Probation and Parole Service.

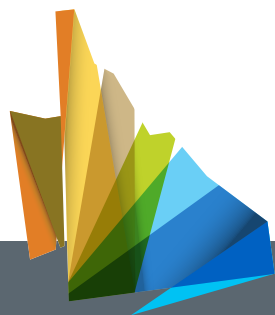
As QCS representatives to the Board, the Public Service Representatives provide expert advice as to the suitability of parole for individual offenders. Public Service Representatives are best placed to inform management strategies that are enshrined in the conditions of parole orders. As a peak independent decision-making body, the Board is equipped through this advice to ensure every decision for parole is informed by contemporaneous advice on risk and parole suitability for each applicant.

The Public Service Representatives, like their colleagues from QPS, are able to provide an operational link to the Board, ensuring the relevant factors for each matter are reflected in the decision-making process. The representatives support the Board's primary consideration of community safety.

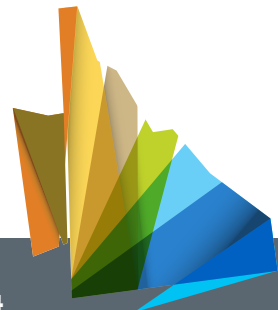
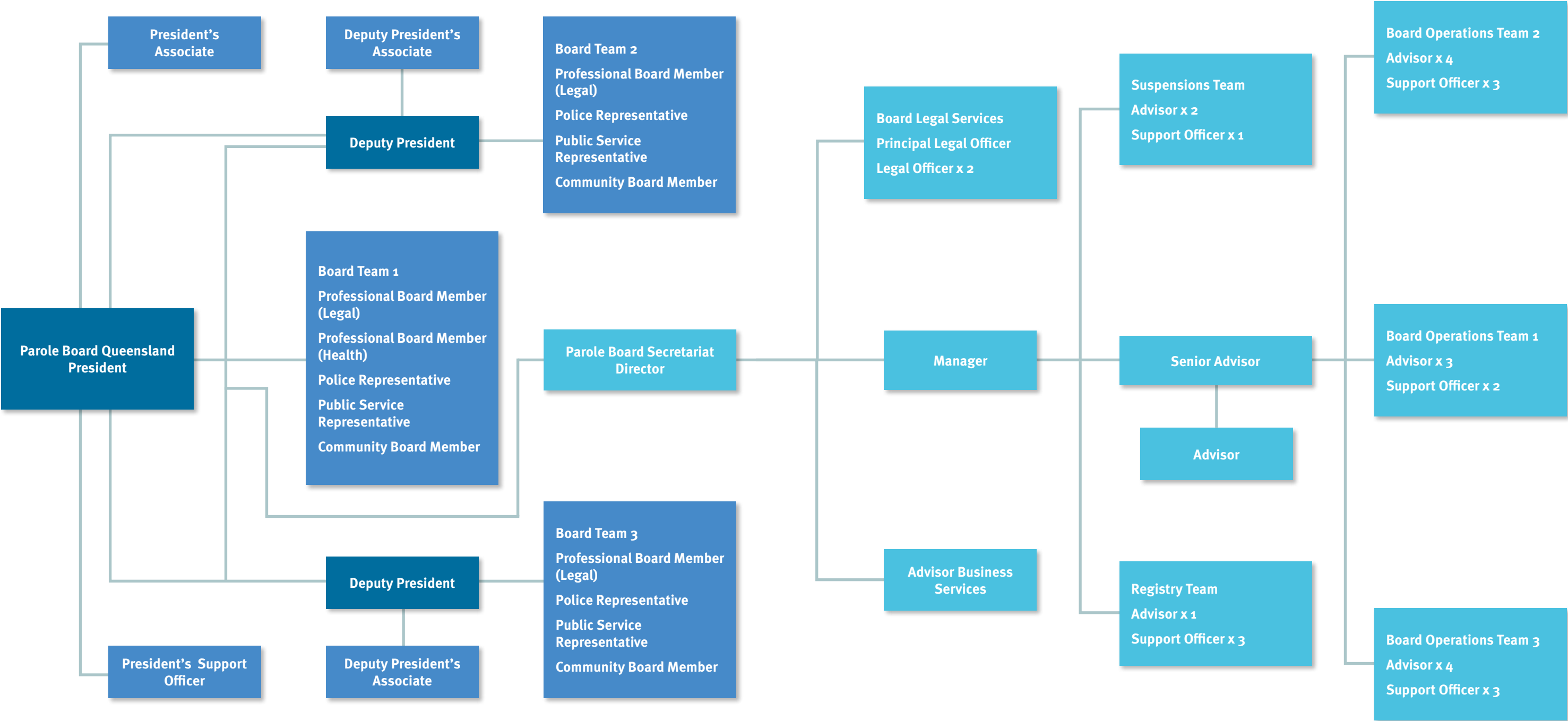
Police Representatives

As a result of the QPSR, a number of recommendations were made to ensure the safety of the community and the proper and efficient operation of the Board. One of the recommendations was to appoint a police officer to be a part of the Board. The relevant legislative provisions now require the Board membership to include at least one Police Representative who has been nominated by the Commissioner of Police.

As a member of the Board, Police Representatives adjudicate upon applications for parole, applications for immediate suspension of a parole order and other matters concerning the management of parolees. The position provides an integral link between QPS and the Board providing advice on operational, administrative and policy issues concerning policing and parole.



Organisational chart



Purpose, functions and activities

Mission Statement

Parole is not a privilege or entitlement. It is a method developed to prevent re-offending and plays an integral part in the criminal justice system. When making parole decisions, the Board's highest priority will always be the safety of the community.

Purpose

On 3 July 2017, the Queensland Government established the Board in response to key recommendations made by the QPSR:

- there should be only one parole board in Queensland that hears all applications for Board-Ordered Parole (Recommendation 33)
- the power to suspend parole should be vested solely in the parole board (Recommendation 78).

Functions

The Board and its functions are established by Chapter 5 of the CSA (Parole). There are two types of parole in Queensland:

- Board-Ordered Parole where prisoners are sentenced to a period of imprisonment, given a parole eligibility date and must apply to the Board for release on a parole order
- Court-Ordered Parole where prisoners not including those prisoners sentenced to sexual offences or violent serious offences are sentenced to a period of imprisonment of three years or less and given a parole release date fixed by the Court.

As an independent statutory authority, the Board has legislative power to make decisions pursuant to the CSA to:

- grant or refuse an application for Board-Ordered Parole
- grant or refuse applications for exceptional circumstances parole
- decide applications for parole where the victim's body or remains have not been located (No Body No Parole)
- amend, suspend or cancel a parole order
- confirm or set aside a decision to immediately suspend a prisoner's parole order.

QCS is responsible for the case management and supervision (including re-integration) of prisoners and prisoners released on parole.

Board Meetings

The Board must meet as often as is necessary to perform its functions. Decisions are made by a majority of votes.

The number of Board members required to consider a parole matter is determined by the type of parole matter being heard—whether it is a parole matter for a Prescribed Prisoner or a Non-Prescribed Prisoner.

A Prescribed Prisoner is legislatively defined in the CSA and includes prisoners convicted of a serious sexual offence, a serious violent offence, a strangulation offence or an offence with a circumstance of aggravation. The definition also includes prisoners who have been sentenced to a mandatory minimum non-parole period.

A five-member Board must decide a parole application or cancellation of a parole order for a Prescribed Prisoner. The Board must consist of at least:

- the President or a Deputy President
- a Professional Board Member
- a Community Board Member
- a Public Service Representative
- a Police Representative.

A three-member Board presided by a President or Deputy President may decide a parole suspension matter for a Prescribed Prisoner. The Board must consist of at least:

- the President or a Deputy President
- a Professional Board Member
- a Community Board Member.

A three-member Board may decide an amendment of a parole order for a Prescribed Prisoner or Non-Prescribed Prisoner and all other parole matters for Non-Prescribed Prisoners:

- a Professional Board Member
- a Community Board Member
- at least one other board member.

The Board may require a prisoner to attend a board meeting in person, by videoconference or telephone.

Parole Applications

Prisoners may apply for an exceptional circumstances parole order at any time and, if granted, the parole order may start at any time. If the exceptional circumstances parole application relates to serious medical issues, the Board will seek medical advice prior to deciding the application.

Otherwise, a prisoner may apply for a parole order if they are within 180 days of their parole eligibility date. The Board is to



decide a prisoner's parole application (grant parole or refuse parole) within 120 days, or 150 days if the decision is deferred for further information.

The No Body No Parole legislative provisions require the Board to be satisfied the prisoner has cooperated satisfactorily in the investigation of the offence to identify a victim's location. This includes where the body or remains of a victim of a homicide offence (as defined by the CSA) have not been located, or where, because of an act or omission by the prisoner or another person, part of the body or remains of the victim have not been located. In these circumstances, the Board must refuse to grant an application for parole.

A prisoner cannot apply for parole if the date specified by the Board at which to reapply has not been reached or they have lodged an appeal with the Court against their conviction or sentence.

Where an application for a parole order is refused, the Board must provide the prisoner written reasons for the decision.

Submissions from Eligible Persons

A person registered as an Eligible Person with the QCS Victims Register may, within 21 days of being notified that the prisoner has applied for parole, make written submissions to the Board about anything that:

- is relevant to the decision about making the parole order
- was not before the court at the time of sentencing.

Eligible Persons may include:

- the actual victim of the offence
- if the victim is deceased, an immediate family member of the deceased victim

- if the victim is under 18 years or has a legal incapacity, the victim's parent or legal guardian
- when documentary evidence exists of the prisoner's history of violence against the person
- if the person's life or physical safety is endangered due to a connection between the person and the offence.

Parole Order Conditions

A parole order must include standard conditions pursuant to s200 of the CSA and these include that the prisoner is:

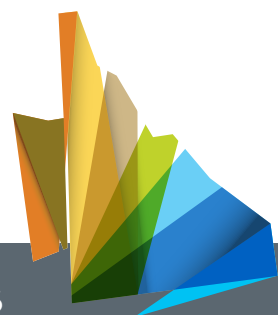
- subject to the chief executive's supervision until the end of the prisoner's period of imprisonment
- required to carry out lawful instructions, to provide test samples and if required, report and receive visits as directed by the chief executive, to notify the chief executive with 48 hours of any change in the prisoner's address or employment and not commit an offence.

A parole order may contain a condition that the prisoner is to be subject to a curfew and/or electronic monitoring. The Board may also include conditions the Board considers reasonably necessary to ensure the prisoner's good conduct or to stop the prisoner committing an offence.

Amendment, Suspension or Cancellation of a Parole Order

The Board has the power to amend, suspend or cancel Board-Ordered Parole or Court-Ordered Parole if the Board reasonably believes that the prisoner:

- has failed to comply with the parole order
- poses a serious risk of harm to someone else





- poses an unacceptable risk of committing an offence
- is preparing to leave Queensland, other than under a written order granting the prisoner leave to travel interstate or overseas.

The Board may also amend, suspend or cancel a Board-Ordered Parole, if the Board receives information that, had it been received before the parole order was made, would have resulted in the Board making a different parole order or not making a parole order for a prisoner.

If the prisoner is charged with a further offence, the Board may amend or suspend their Board-Ordered Parole or Court-Ordered Parole.

Requests for Immediate Suspension of a Parole Order

An authorised QCS delegate may request an immediate suspension of a parole order.

The request for immediate suspension must be considered by a Prescribed Board Member as a matter of urgency. These board members must decide to suspend or not to suspend the parole order as a matter of urgency. Prescribed Board Members include the President, Deputy Presidents and Professional Board Members.

If a Prescribed Board Member decides to suspend a prisoner’s parole order, the Board must confirm or set aside the decision to suspend within two business days of the decision being made.

Interstate and overseas travel

The Board may grant interstate travel leave to prisoners released on Board-Ordered Parole if the period is more than seven days. An authorised QCS delegate may decide all other applications made by prisoners for interstate travel leave.

Only the Board may grant overseas travel leave to prisoners released on parole for compassionate purposes in exceptional circumstances.

Judicial Review

In Queensland, decisions of the Board are subject to judicial review.

Prisoners generally request a statement of reasons to explain the reasons for a decision of the Board and, if they are not satisfied, they may apply to the Supreme Court of Queensland for a judicial review of the Board’s decision. The Board’s administrative decision-making processes are reviewed by the court and it is not a merit review of the Board’s decision. The court may decide to confirm the Board’s decision and dismiss an application, or set aside the Board’s decision and require the Board to decide the matter again.

Board meetings	2017–18
Total number of meetings	483
Average number of matters scheduled per meeting	29
Total number of prisoners appearing through videoconference	225
Total number of prisoners appearing by telephone	5
Total number of prisoners appearing in person (open hearings)	4
Parole applications	2017–18
Total number of parole order applications decided	2517
Percentage of the parole order applications—granted	69%
Percentage of the parole order applications—refused	31%
Total number of No Body No Parole (NBNP) applications decided	2
Total number of NBNP decisions—prisoner satisfactorily cooperated in the investigation of the offence	2
Total number of NBNP decisions—prisoner did not satisfactorily co-operate in the investigation of the offence	0
Amendment, suspension or cancellation of a parole order	2017–18
Total number of parole order amendments	832
Total number of parole orders suspensions	3611
Total number of parole orders cancellations	1458
Requests for immediate suspension of a parole order	2017–18
Total number of requests for immediate suspension of a parole order	3627
Percentage of requests for immediate suspension of a parole order confirmed by a professional board member	96%
Interstate and overseas travel requests	2017–18
Total number of interstate travel requests decided	99
Total number of overseas travel requests decided	41
Statement of reasons¹	2017–18
Total number of statement of reasons requested	97
Total number of statement of reasons provided	76
Judicial review application²	2017–18
Total number of judicial review applications filed—statement of reasons	2
Total number of judicial review applications filed—decision	23
Total number of judicial review applications filed (decision)—discontinued	9
Total number of judicial review applications filed (decision)—not yet decided	13
Total number of judicial review applications filed (decision)—decided	1
Percentage judicial review decisions confirming the Board’s decision	100%

¹Data excludes 13 requests not relevant to Parole Board Queensland decisions. ²Data includes Parole Board Queensland matters only.

Highlights 2017-18

July 2017

The Board was established as an independent statutory authority with the legislative power pursuant to the CSA and commenced at new premises with multiple conference rooms to support concurrent board meetings.



August 2017

Section 193A CSA the No Body No Parole provisions was assented and provides the Board must not grant parole to a prisoner unless they are satisfied the prisoner co-operated satisfactorily in the investigation of the offence to identify the victim's location.



September 2017

Deputy President Peter Shields opened the 2017 Queensland Law Society's Criminal Law Conference.



October 2017

The Board engaged with Prison Mental Health and the Indigenous Mental Health Intervention Program to develop an information-sharing protocol.



November 2017

The Deputy Presidents visited the Adult Parole Board of Victoria to observe and discuss reformed board and secretariat functions recently implemented in Victoria.



December 2017

The Board met with the Prisoner Advisory Committees at Brisbane Women's and Wolston Correctional Centres to discuss the Board's key messages about parole processes.

January 2018

The Board held public hearings at the Magistrates Court in Brisbane regarding two No Body No Parole matters. The Board's final decision and reasons as to whether a prisoner has satisfactorily cooperated were published:

<https://corrections.qld.gov.au/parole-board-queensland>

February 2018

The Board met with the Prisoner Advisory Committees at Arthur Gorrie and Brisbane Correctional Centres to discuss the Board's key messages to prisoners about parole processes.

Deputy President, Peter Shields presented an information session to prison General Managers in relation to the application of key legislative provisions and Ministerial Guidelines relating to parole decisions.



March 2018

The Board's Deputy Presidents presented on the Board's purpose and functions at the Queensland Law Society Symposium.

The Board met with staff at the Logan Probation and Parole District Office and provided a question and answer information session in relation to key decision-making considerations when deciding to amend, suspend or cancel a prisoner's parole order.



April 2018

The President of the Board visited the traditional cultural community of Kowanyama with the Honourable Mark Ryan, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.

Deputy President Peter Shields attended the 2018 Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) Conference in Nevada, United States of America.

The Board presented at the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions 2018 Victim Liaison Officer Conference.

The Board met with staff at the Hervey Bay Probation and Parole District Office and provided a question and answer information session in relation to key decision-making considerations when deciding to amend, suspend or cancel a prisoner's parole order.

The Board met with the Prisoner Advisory Committee at Maryborough Correctional Centre to discuss the Board's key messages to prisoners about parole processes.

May 2018

Podcast interviews with Deputy President Peter Shields, and Community Board Member Jennifer Cullen, about their justice journeys were released during Queensland Law Week.

The Board met with staff at the Rockhampton Probation and Parole District Office and provided a question and answer information session in relation to key decision-making considerations when deciding to amend, suspend or cancel a prisoner's parole order.

The Board met with the Prisoner Advisory Committee at Capricornia Correctional Centre to discuss the Board's key messages to prisoners about parole processes.

June 2018

The Board met with the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group in relation to key decision-making considerations when deciding a No Body No Parole application.

The Board met with staff at the Beenleigh Probation and Parole District Office and provided a question and answer information session in relation to key decision-making considerations when deciding to amend, suspend or cancel a prisoner's parole order.



The Board met with the Prisoner Advisory Committees at Palen Creek and Numinbah Correctional Centres to discuss the Board's key messages to prisoners about parole processes.

The Deputy President, Julie Sharp presented a paper on Parole (Mitigation of Penalty and Offender Rehabilitation) to Griffith University students studying prison law.

Stakeholder engagement 2017-2018

For success on parole

The Board acknowledges that the success of prisoners on parole and therefore, the safety of the community will be improved through active engagement with key stakeholders to:

- inform the Board's key decision-making considerations and challenges
- improve information-sharing processes impacting on parole decisions
- communicate the facts and myths surrounding parole processes.

Prisoner Advisory Committees

During 2017-18, the Board visited correctional centres across Queensland to meet with Prisoner Advisory Committees to deliver key messages about applying for parole and responding to Board correspondence relating to adverse decisions.

The Board's key messages to prisoners included:

- make your own application to the Board
- you can appear before the Board by videoconference if you have literacy issues
- the Board will make evidence-based decisions and consider your criminal history and sentencing transcripts
- the Board will inform you about the reasons for a decision
- exceptional circumstance parole is only for exceptional circumstances
- only the Board can suspend a prisoner's parole order
- having a mental health condition is not a barrier to getting parole
- the Board acknowledges accommodation is a key factor for success on parole.

Probation and Parole Service

The Board held question and answer forums at various Probation and Parole District Offices. The forums provided an opportunity for Probation and Parole Officers to present case examples and seek feedback in relation to the Board's considerations when deciding to suspend a prisoner's parole order.

Queensland Health

The Board worked closely with the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Department of Health and the Queensland

Forensic Mental Health Service, Metropolitan North Hospital and Health Service to establish an information-sharing protocol to inform parole decisions. The protocol protects prisoners' right to medical confidentiality.

With the prisoner's consent, the Board obtains information directly from the Prison Mental Health Service relating to the prisoner's mental health diagnosis, current mental health state, care plan in custody and care plan if released to the community.

Accommodation service providers

The QPSR reported three factors for a prisoner's success on parole: a home, a job and freedom from substance abuse.

Since its establishment, the Board has found there to be a lack of suitable post-release accommodation options for prisoners who may have been otherwise granted parole. This, in turn, decreases bed availability in Queensland prisons.

To date, the Board has engaged private sector housing suppliers to overcome the challenge of where a prisoner is considered by the Board to be suitable for parole but has no accommodation.

Law societies

The President and Deputy Presidents regularly presented to law society and student bodies such as the Queensland Law Society Symposium and Griffith University Law School to communicate the facts of parole and dispel the myths about parole processes.

The Board's key messages to law societies and student bodies included:

- the Board makes independent decisions regarding a prisoner's release on parole
- the power to suspend a parole order now vests solely with the Board
- parole is not a privilege or entitlement and it is a method developed to prevent re-offending
- the Board's highest priority will always be the safety of the community.

Victim support groups

More recently, the Board commenced engaging victim support groups in relation to parole board decision-making processes including No Body No Parole applications.

The Board met with the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation during 2018 and has sought to extend these meetings to other victim support groups such as Bravehearts during 2018–19.

