

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

Queensland Parole Boards



Queensland
Government

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Queensland Parole Boards

2016-2017 Annual Report

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Parole Board email

Queensland Parole Board:

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Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board:

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**No longer in use – refer to Parole Board Queensland (ParoleBoardQLD@dcs.qld.gov.au)*

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

www.justice.qld.gov.au

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www.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au

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GPO Box 1054, Brisbane Qld 4001

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Contact details for all corrective services locations including probation and parole offices and correctional centres are available at www.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au.

Acronyms

- DJAG – Department of Justice and Attorney-General
- QCS – Queensland Corrective Services
- CSA – Corrective Services Act 2006
- QPB – Queensland Parole Board
- SQRPB – Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board
- CNQRPB – Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board
- PBQ – Parole Board Queensland

Message from the A/President, Queensland Parole Boards

This has been a momentous year in Queensland's Parole Board history. First, Peter McInnes, the long-serving President of the three Boards died after a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, during which he defied the longevity odds by his sheer determination and positive attitude. Indeed, the fingerprint of Peter's positivity will be felt by Parole Board members for a very long time.

Second, there was a comprehensive review into the structure and resources of the Parole Boards – a review that was frankly well overdue, as Queensland was lagging behind the other Australian jurisdictions and behind others in the western world. It was interesting to note how many of the review's recommendations emanated from discussions with serving parole board members.

Third, Parliament passed far-reaching legislation which will take effect on 3 July 2017, and which will completely and utterly transform the parole structure and resources. Since 2005, the Boards have had only one full-time member, the President. Now there will be seven full-time members, as well as part-time members drawn from the community. I heartily congratulate Michael Byrne QC the incoming President, and Ms Julie Sharp and Mr Peter Shields, the incoming Deputy Presidents. Their combined experience and depth of wisdom will serve the Queensland community well.

Importantly, increased facilities and a vastly changed legislative structure will mean that the workload at each Parole Board meeting will decrease from the crushing numbers the present members have tolerated. In this financial year a large number of cases have been dealt with by the three Boards. Before each meeting, every member is required to read every file on the agenda, make notes, and reach a provisional decision before a collective decision is made by the Board, and reasons compiled to justify the decision. And every case has a potential serious consequence for both the community and the offender.

During the year, the present Parole Board members were described thus in a public document: "decisions are being made, on the whole, by earnest and devoted amateurs who lack any distinctly relevant experience, qualifications or training."

That gratuitous insulting description could not possibly be more wrong. I have chaired three Parole Board meetings every week for several months, and so have first-hand knowledge of all the members' abilities. With only a couple of exceptions I have found the members to have been very well educated both formally and in the university of life, with a diversity of relevant experience, and highly skilled in risk assessment, which is the essence of Parole Boards' work. With due modesty, I think my decade and a half's experience in parole in Queensland, Canada, the USA and the UK equips me to form an accurate opinion.

The Queensland Parole Boards' results compare favourably with all those I have read from other Australian and overseas jurisdictions. But a seven-fold increase in the full-time membership, the promise of very greatly enhanced resources, and a reduction in each meeting's workload will no doubt make Queensland's results even more commendable.

The Boards could not function without the commitment and competence of the Secretariat, headed by Ms Crosby. She and her staff have been unceasing in their

diligence and willingness to keep the system operating smoothly. My thanks also go to the Corrective Services staff who attend each Board meeting. They not only offer very important contributions to the decision-making process, but also provide regular, relevant information about corrections, rehabilitation programs, and risk assessment techniques. In effect, Board members have the benefit of regular on-going training.

The very nature of parole work means it is inevitable that some people will re-offend when released from custody, despite the best efforts of Parole Boards and the Probation and Parole Officers who manage them in the community. But it cannot ever be forgotten that with the exception of people sentenced to life imprisonment, every prison inmate will one day be released. They are coming out, ready or not.

Parole Boards' primary obligation must always remain the safety of the community. There are several reasons why some people should be sentenced to imprisonment. But in the end, it comes down to protecting the community.

The never-easy, and sometimes gut-wrenching, decision in every case is whether the community will be better served by trying to re-integrate the offender back into the community under supervision and guidance; or by keeping the person in custody for as long as possible and then pushing him or her out the gate on the last day.

Queenslanders can be proud of the efforts made on their behalf by the members of the three current Parole Boards during the year just gone. And I know the members all join with me in wishing the new Queensland Board all the very best as they pass the baton to them.

On a personal level, I am grateful to the Minister for having given me the opportunity to serve in this important part of the State's justice system.

Francis Lippett
A/President
Queensland Parole Boards

Chapter 5 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* – Functions, operations and membership of the Queensland Parole Boards

Parole Boards

The Parole Boards (Queensland Parole Board, Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board, and Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board) were independent statutory bodies with members appointed by the Governor in Council.

Parole Board Membership

Section 218 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* outlined the membership of the Queensland Parole Board.

Section 232 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* outlined the membership of the Regional Parole Boards.

As at 30 June 2017, the membership of the Parole Boards included:

Membership Requirements	Parole Board Members		
	QPB	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Psychologist/Doctor	1	4	4
Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander Person	1	3	3
Male	4	13	12
Female	2	13	14

- * *Francis Lippett, Acting President of the Queensland Parole Boards is included in the membership numbers for all Boards.*
- * *Allan Renouf and Melissa Sands are appointed to both the Queensland Parole Board and the Regional Parole Boards.*
- * *With the exception of the Deputy Presidents of the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board, all members of the Regional Boards are appointed to both the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.*

The President was appointed to all three Boards. A Deputy President was appointed to a specific Regional Board.

As at 30 June 2017, the President and Deputy Presidents appointed were as follows:

- A/President, Queensland Parole Boards – *Mr Francis Lippett*;
- Deputy President, Queensland Parole Board – *Mr Peter Kelly*;
- Deputy President, Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board – *Mr Mark Chapple*;
- Deputy President, Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board – *Ms Jo-Ann Fitchett*.

During the reporting period, the following Queensland Corrective Services employees were delegated the authority of Nominated Public Service Officer for the parole boards, in accordance with sections 218 and 232 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*:

Tracey Crosby (Director, Operations, Specialist Operations)

Anne Flynn (District Manager, Brisbane North Probation and Parole District Office)

Patricia Hasted (Public Service Representative, Parole Board Queensland)

Shelley Lyell (State-wide Manager, Sentence Administration, Specialist Operations)

William Thirkill (Public Service Representative, Parole Board Queensland)

Matthew Landsberg (Principal Advisor, Operations, Specialist Operations)

Helen Davey (Senior Advisor, Operational Assurance, Specialist Operations)

Stacey Rosenthal (A/Manager, Specialist Operations)

Fiona Southey (Public Service Representative, Parole Board Queensland)

Queensland Parole Orders

In accordance with the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, parole is the only option for early release from custody.

During the 2016-2017 financial year, the Parole Boards considered matters relating to the following types of parole orders:

- Court Ordered Parole Order
- Board Ordered Parole Order
- Exceptional Circumstances Parole Order

Court Ordered Parole

Under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, Part 9, Division 3, offenders sentenced to a period of imprisonment three years or less (excluding those convicted of a sexual or serious violent offence) the Sentencing Court must fix a date for the offender to be released on parole.

Board Ordered Parole

Part 9, Division 3 of the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, details offenders sentenced to more than three years imprisonment, or those convicted of a sexual or serious violent offence, the Sentencing Court must set a parole eligibility date.

The offender, in accordance with section 180 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*, may apply for parole. The Parole Order may be granted on or after the parole eligibility date, but not prior to this date.

Exceptional Circumstances Parole

In accordance with section 176 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* a prisoner may apply at any time for an Exceptional Circumstances Parole Order. If granted the prisoner can be released on a date determined by the Board.

Application

In Queensland, an application for a Parole Order is generated by the prisoner submitting a Form 29 – Application by Prisoner for a Parole Order. An application for an Exceptional Circumstances Parole Order is generated by the prisoner submitting a Form 28 – Application by Prisoner for Exceptional Circumstances Parole Order.

Parole Order Conditions

Section 200 of the *Corrective Services Act*, prescribes that a parole order must include a number of mandatory conditions. The Board may also impose conditions the Board reasonably considers necessary to ensure the prisoner's good conduct or to stop the prisoner committing an offence.

Queensland Parole Board

The functions of the Queensland Parole Board were outlined in section 217 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*. The Queensland Parole Board considered and determined the following:

- Parole matters for offenders sentenced to a period of imprisonment of eight years or more;
- International travel requests;
- Interstate parole orders that have been transferred to and registered in Queensland; and
- Regional Parole Board matters in accordance with s195 and s196 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*.

The appointed members of the Queensland Parole Board during the reporting period were:

- Peter McInnes – President (01 July 2016 - 28 April 2017)
- Francis Lippett – Deputy President, A/President (12 December 2016 - 06 January 2017, and 23 January 2017 – 30 June 2017),
- Peter Kelly – Parole Board member, A/Deputy President (23 January 2017 – 30 June 2017)
- Alison Hunter
- Allan Renouf
- Ian Davies
- Dr Melissa Sands

Message from the Deputy President, Queensland Parole Board

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Queensland Parole Board for the past year. The Queensland Board considers applications for parole from prisoners who have been sentenced to a term of 8 years or more.

Sadly, our long serving past President, Peter McInnes, after a long illness, passed away earlier this year after serving the people of Queensland for over 15 years. Peter was very passionate about his role. He would however, have been most pleased to know that many of his recommendations, and those of other Queensland Board Members, would be implemented by the 'Sofronoff review' conducted at the request of the Queensland Government. The people of Queensland owe Peter a great debt for his leadership of the Parole Board and his role in maintaining public safety during his time.

Mr Frank Lippett very capably undertook the onerous position of Acting President when Peter took leave and his efforts cannot be underestimated during his period in the position.

The completion of this year marks a significant moment in the history of the Queensland Parole Board. Following the 'Sofronoff review' and the presentation of the review team's comprehensive report, significant changes were recommended to the Queensland Parole system. Those changes have now been implemented by Legislation and will take effect from July 2017. With that will be the closure of the current parole system in Queensland.

Other than the President and a Departmental Representative, there have been no other full-time Members of the Board. That will now change with the appointment of 12 full-time Board Members and a number of full-time legal staff. In addition a further 25 community part-time Members will be appointed to assist in the decision making process. Hopefully the changes recommended by the outgoing Board and adopted by the Review Committee can be implemented soon.

The outgoing Board consisted of a very experienced eclectic sector of the Queensland community with representatives from the indigenous community, psychology, victims of crime, the legal fraternity and those with extensive corrective services backgrounds. Board members whose tenure on the current Board will conclude with the introduction of the new legislation, and for whom Queenslanders also owe a great deal of gratitude for their dedication and public service, are Mr Ian Davies, Ms Allison Hunter, Mr Alan Renouf, Dr Melissa Sands, and the departmental representative and Parole Board Secretariat Director, Ms Tracey Crosby. Ours has been a diverse group representative in many ways of the Queensland community.

Every Board member is to be congratulated for their dedication and application in preparing and participating in Board meetings. A statutory fee was paid for attending each meeting. It should be mentioned that in order to make informed decisions, and under the current system, members were effectively required to undertake upwards of 8 hours preparation reading for each meeting. The collective background and vast experience of Board members ensured parole decisions and orders were made in a manner designed to safeguard community safety, and allow the release of prisoners with appropriate orders designed to aid them with their rehabilitation and reintegration. In this regard recognition should also be made of the many psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health experts and Corrective Services staff who

assisted the Board with expert reports which allowed the Board to make sound evidence based and transparent decisions.

The parole secretariat must also be congratulated for the wonderful services they have provided in supporting the Board and ensuring applications were brought before the Board in an efficient and timely way. In carrying out its functions the Board was also well served by the legal expertise provided by officers from the Crown Law Office.

The proposed resources committed to the new Board by the parliament, through the Honourable Mark Ryan MP (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) is to be congratulated. It recognises a new paradigm in the way in which parole will be considered and supported within the community. The resources allocated to the new Board should ensure a well resourced parole board, par excellence, able to deliver a system of parole and support services not available before to parole boards in this State. This of course will be a tremendous benefit in ensuring the maintenance of the Board's highest priority, which remains paramount, namely, the safety of the people of Queensland.

I know I speak on behalf of my fellow Board members when I say it has been an honour to serve the people of Queensland in such an important role, and I take this opportunity in wishing the new Parole Board of Queensland every success.

Peter D Kelly
Acting Deputy President
Queensland Parole Board

Regional Parole Boards

The functions of the Regional Parole Boards were outlined in section 231 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*. The Regional Parole Boards considered matters for the following:

- Parole matters for offenders that are sentenced to a period of imprisonment less than eight years;
- Interstate travel applications (for more than seven days);
- Court Ordered Parole matters (excluding interstate and international travel)

The Regional Parole Board that granted the Parole Order or Exceptional Circumstances Parole Order were responsible for the order until its completion.

Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board

This Board considered applications and matters for prisoners located at:

- Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre;
- Southern Queensland Correctional Centre;
- Brisbane Correctional Centre;
- Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre;
- Numinbah Correctional Centre;
- Palen Creek Correctional Centre;
- Wolston Correctional Centre;
- Woodford Correctional Centres;
- Helena Jones Correctional Centre;
- Borallon Training and Correctional Centre; and
- Any associated work camps for these Correctional Centres

Court Ordered Parole Orders for offenders managed by Probation and Parole District Offices located in:

- North Coast Region (South of Maryborough);
- South Coast Region;
- Southern Region; and
- Brisbane Region.

Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board

This Board considered applications and matters for prisoners located at:

- Capricornia Correctional Centre;
- Lotus Glen Correctional Centre;
- Townsville Correctional Centre;
- Townsville Women's Correctional Centre;
- Maryborough Correctional Centres; and
- Any associated work camps for these Correctional Centres

Court ordered parole orders for offenders managed by Probation and Parole District Offices located in:

- Central Region;
- Northern Region;
- Far Northern Region; and
- North Coast Region (Maryborough and North)

The following members were appointed to the Regional Parole Boards during the 2016-2017 reporting period:

- Peter McInnes – President
- Francis Lippett – A/President
- Jo-Anne Fitchett – Deputy President, Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board
- Mark Chapple – Deputy President, Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board
- Paul Lostroh
- Raymond Lane
- Jane Andersen
- Karl McKenzie
- Allan Renouf
- Dr Garry Kidd
- Craig Meiklejohn
- Stan Macionis
- Dr Melissa Sands
- Karen Dunshea
- Glenn O'Brien
- Anil Bakrania
- Anne-Maree Roche
- Chiu-Hing Chan
- Helen Watkins
- Rebecca Bellamy
- Clair Duffy
- Barbara Kent
- Hala Hijleh
- Kimberley Jackson
- Leigh Henry
- Santhoshi Watapuluwa
- Suzanne Banks
- Gary Patten
- Jens Streit
- James Morton

- Garry Bell
- Mark Sayers
- Alexandra Greene
- Peter Baston
- Simon Coolican
- Michael Halliday
- Philip Jamieson
- Jean Little
- Kathleen Payne
- John Pescott

Message from the Deputy Presidents, Regional Parole Boards

Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board

The opportunity to work with board members committed to community service, victim safety, and the community's safety has once again made it a privilege to serve as Deputy President of the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

Very sadly 28 April 2017 saw the passing of Mr Peter McInnes, President of the Queensland Parole Boards ending an era of enormous service and contribution by Peter to the work of all the Queensland Parole Boards. Peter's leadership wisdom, humanity, strong work ethic and sense of justice set tone for the Board. Peter was passionate in his concern to protect victim and community safety, with this concern tempered by his love of humanity and profound support for justice. Peter's personal approach let him relate and communicate with people from all walks of life and the support he gave, and kindness he showed to others established a team approach on the Board which is one of the things which helps the board deal with the sometime difficult task and heavy work load it faces.

The Eulogy at Peter's funeral service included contributions from Ms Jo Fitchett, Deputy President of the Central and Northern Regional Parole Board and Ms Samantha Newman Executive Director, Specialist Operations, Queensland Corrective Services. I am confident that all those at the service were grateful to hear those hearts felt and finely presented contributions.

I pay thanks for Peter's hard work, personal contribution and support.

I thank every board member of the board for their contribution to the board's work. Various board members have committed considerable time, professional skill, life experience and wisdom to the board's decision making process which is often difficult and sometimes confronting. I would like to pay particular thanks to those Board members who have been able to make themselves available to participate in out of session teleconference meetings which are held necessarily at very short notice to deal with urgent matters.

This year the Board increased the number of scheduled meetings from two to generally three times per week, which has assisted the board better manage its work load and I commend this step.

The insight, experience and professionalism of the various Nominated Public Service Officers who have sat on the Board throughout the year has been both impressive and invaluable.

Previously I have noted that very often the Board must deal with the cycle of domestic violence offending in which many prisoners and their victims are caught. The past year has seen the Board further develop its skills in assessing the risk of, and dealing with this type of offending. Thankfully, a community response to the problem is building, but domestic violence offending regrettably remains highly prevalent in the matters the Board considers.

Like many people in the wider community large numbers of parole applicants find it very difficult to obtain suitable community accommodation. The Department has taken steps to assist parole applicants to find suitable accommodation with some

success but sadly lack of community accommodation remains a barrier to the successful completion of parole for many.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain very sadly, vastly over represented in the matters before the Board. The contribution made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives on the board is invaluable and I thank those members for the special contribution they have made.

Substance misuse, and the use of Methylamphetamine in particular touches the lives of the overwhelming majority of parole applicants and contributes to their risk of offending. The Department is to be praised for the ongoing increasing availability of programs to assist prisoners address their substance abuse like Pathways – Challenges to Change”, however the issue remains a challenge to the whole community.

Disproportionate number of prisoners have serious mental health difficulties and Prison Mental Health Service is thanked for their treatment of those prisoners and for the assistance it has given to the board.

It is encouraging that among the government supported recommendations from the 2016 Queensland Parole System Review there are numerous recommendations touching on Domestic Violence offending risk, substance misuse response, the circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, mental illness and housing transition support.

The Parole Board Secretariat staff led by Director Tracey Crosby have once again completed the year carrying out a very heavy workload and facing strict timeframes. I am very grateful for their hard work, dedication and support.

Mark Chapple
Deputy President
Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board

Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board

It has been my privilege and an honour to have been the Deputy President of the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board since August 2006 and I wish to thank every member of the board and secretariat with whom I have worked during this time for their respect and support for me in this challenging and rewarding role.

I would like to make particular mention of the following individual persons and their supportive influence and significant contributions:

- a) The late Mr Peter McInnes, President of the Queensland Parole Board since August 2006, and who sadly passed away on the 28 April 2017, for his enthusiastic commitment to the Board, parole in Queensland, community safety and strong leadership. Peter was our president and fellow board member and more importantly a trusted friend and father figure to every board member and staff member of the parole board secretariat. His presence is dearly missed by all;
- b) Ms Tracey Crosby, Director of the Parole Board Secretariat for her efficient management of the work flow of applications and matters for board meetings and secretariat support to allow the Board to meet service delivery and legislative decision by due dates; and
- c) Ms Kirsten O Neill, Central and Northern Regional Parole Board secretary based in Townsville for her loyal and dedicated 21 years of service to the parole boards and her high standard of professional secretarial support to the Board and myself.

Members of the Board who live in regional areas of Queensland provided valuable input to the Boards decisions, due to their local knowledge regarding their communities. I thank the regional members of Simon Coolican and Jeannie Little who were both based in Cairns and retired during this financial year for their dedicated contribution and commitment to the Board. The Board welcomed the new regional members of Kimberley Jackson, James Morton and Hala Hijleh who were appointed in August 2016. It was a pleasure to be able to attend and meet the new members in person during their Induction training day sessions conducted in Brisbane in August 2016. The training sessions involved personnel from within the Corrective Services Department providing new members with an overview of relevant information regarding their role as board members. The professional skills and dedication of all members to their role especially reading time in preparation for meetings has always been outstanding and assists the chair in the timely management of the matters considered by the Board during the meeting.

With an increase in the prevalence of substance abuse as a risk of reoffending often linked with a lack of appropriate management of mental health, the Board daily faces the challenge of assessing the risk to the community and the risk of release of the prisoner full time with no supervision. This has led to an increase in the contribution of the professional board members with medical and or psychological skills and independent professional assessments to assist the Board in their deliberations to identify areas of risk to the community.

Breach of Domestic Violence and Protection Orders offending continues to remain a concern for the Board as well as the community due to the high rate of domestic violence offending and reoffending. The protection and safety of women and children is a priority consideration to those administering and policing the current legislation including the Parole Board.

The Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board was privileged to receive a painting presented by Uncle Alfred's Men's Group titled "Townsville Men's Lore". The Board sincerely thanks Townsville Board Member, Karl Mackenzie for arranging for the art work in conjunction with his position as a member of the Men's group. The aboriginal artist, James Mort has incorporated in his work the supportive influences for indigenous offenders and their rehabilitation path that the Board is familiar with for indigenous parolees in regional communities. The eagle and the brolga depicted in the painting represent the two tribal groups and traditional owners of the Townsville region of the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people. The women have been dominant in holding the indigenous families together while the men are missing through incarceration or drug and alcohol addiction are represented by three bright circles in the painting. The rainbow serpent protecting the eggs in the painting represents the men's group teaching and supporting the men until they are reborn. Once the men are reborn they take up their traditional position in their family and in the community as the protectors and providers.

William Thirkill, Shelley Lyell, Anne Flynn, Patricia Hasted, Matthew Landsberg, Helen Davey and Fiona Southey were appointed this financial year as the Nominated Public Service Officers to the Regional Parole Boards. They have consistently provided invaluable and quality advice to enable the Board to make informed decisions regarding prisoner's parole applications due to their knowledge and experience with respect to the operational matters of the corrective services. I personally thank them for their keen approach to the position and their time and dedication to the Board and community safety.

Jo-Anne Fitchett
Deputy President
Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board

Queensland Parole Boards 2016-2017

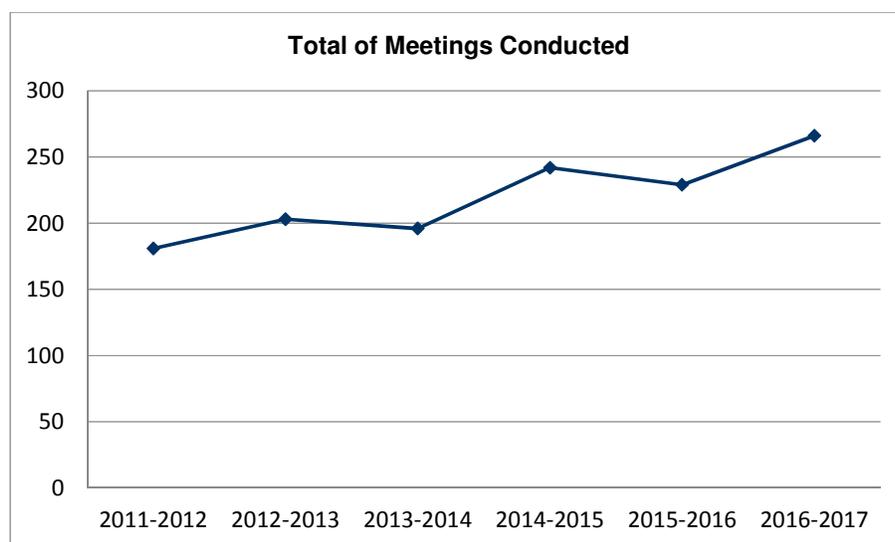
Meetings conducted

During the reporting period, a total of 442 meetings were conducted. This included 140 Board Out Of Session Teleconferences (BOOSTs).

The following number of meetings and BOOSTs were conducted during the reporting period for each Board:

	QPB	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Meetings	44	155	103
BOOSTs	47	69	24
Total number of meetings conducted	91	224	127

During the reporting period, there were 223 scheduled regional parole board meetings. When the President of the Queensland Parole Boards chaired a regional parole board meeting, matters relating to both regional parole boards could be considered. This resulted in the counting of two meetings on a scheduled meeting date.



Please note:

** Graph represents scheduled meetings only, and does not include BOOSTs.*

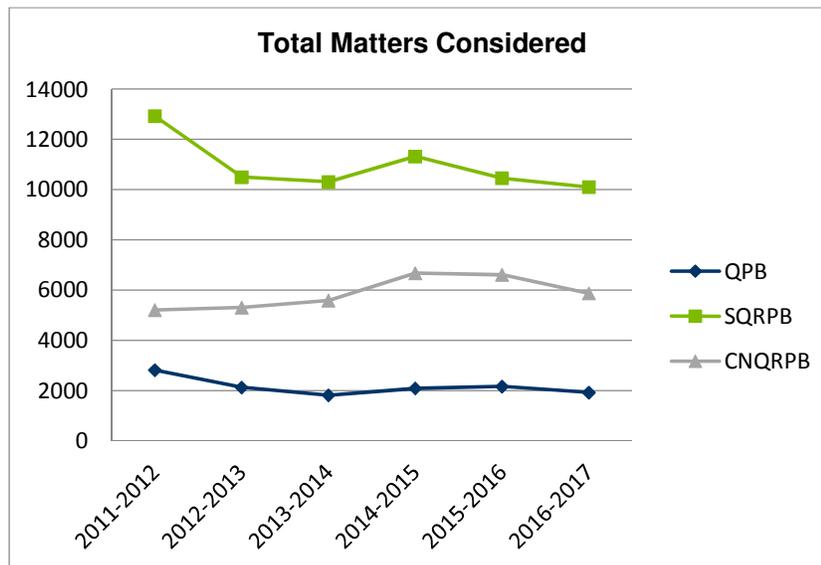
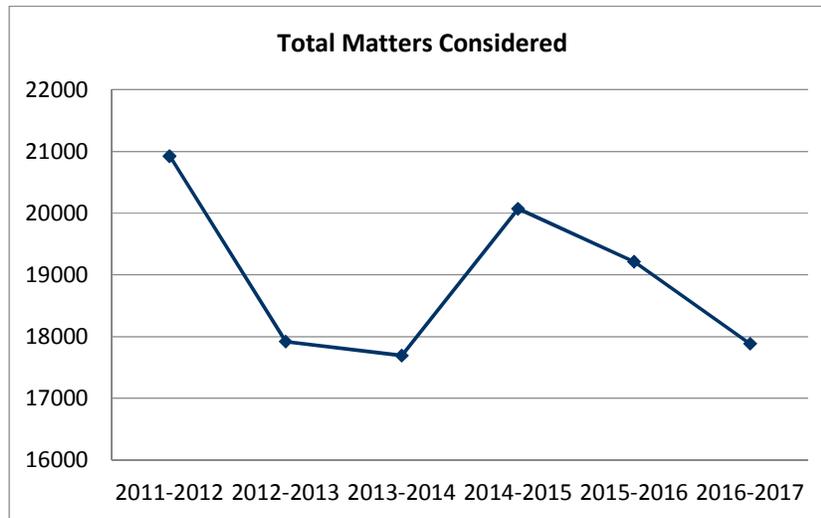
** The Graph detailed in the Annual Report 2015-2016 was incorrect. The Graph reflected a total of 307 scheduled meetings. The number of scheduled meetings for the period of 2015-2016 was 229.*

** The reduction of scheduled meetings in 2015-2016 was a result of members having dual delegation to consider both Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board and Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board matters.*

Matters considered

During the financial year, 17883 matters were considered by all three Boards in Queensland.

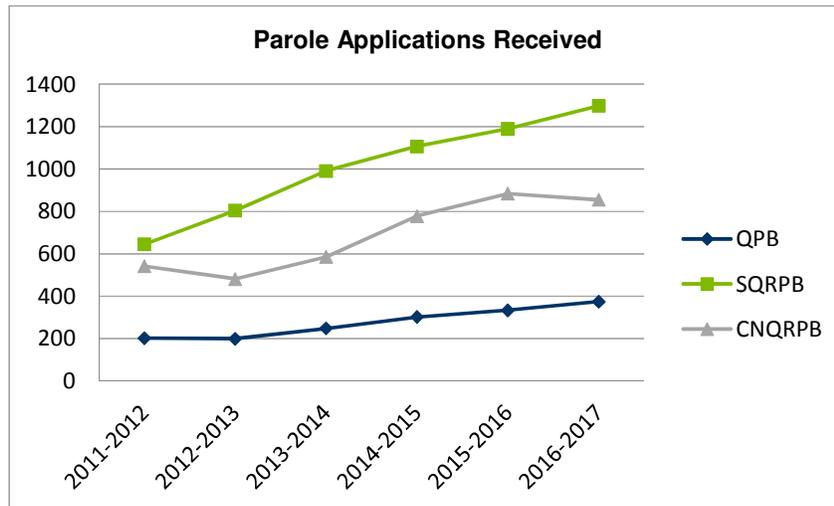
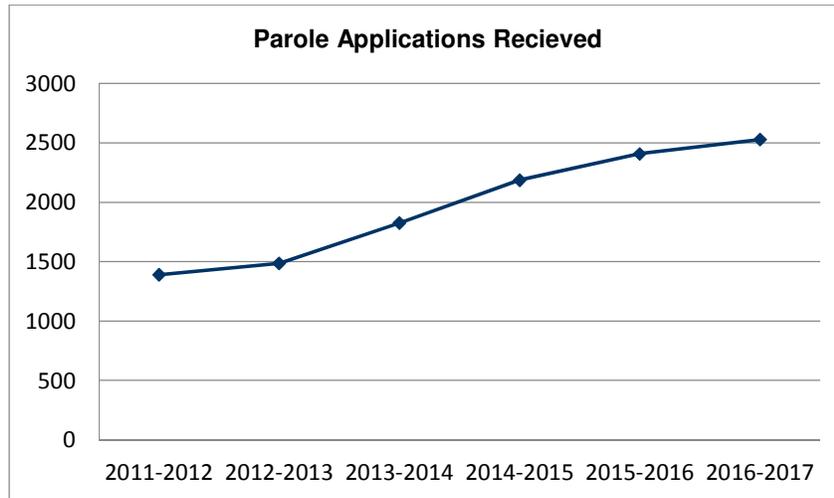
	QPB	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Matters considered at meetings	1 860	10 017	5 838
Matters considered via BOOSTs	61	78	29
Total number of matters considered	1 921	10 095	5 867



Parole Applications

A total of 2528 parole applications were considered by the Boards during the reporting period. This total includes 55 exceptional circumstances parole applications.

	QPB	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Parole applications	359	1 275	837
Exceptional circumstances parole applications	16	23	18
Total number of applications considered	375	1 298	855



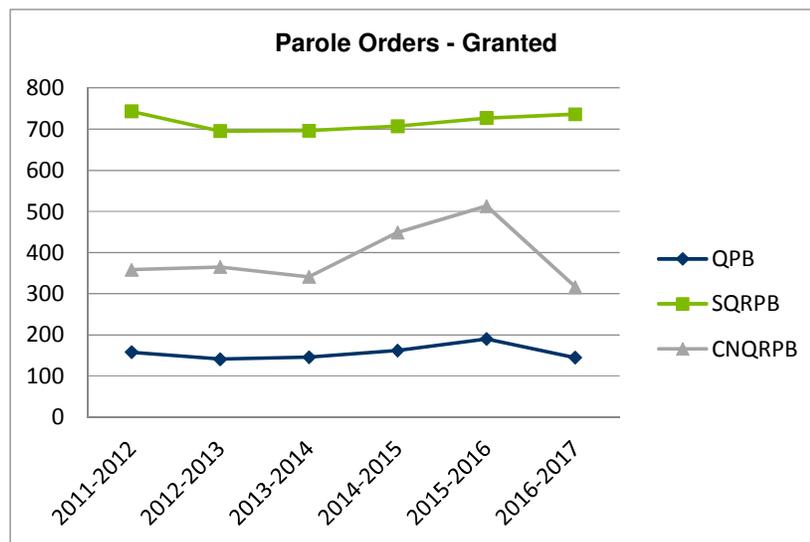
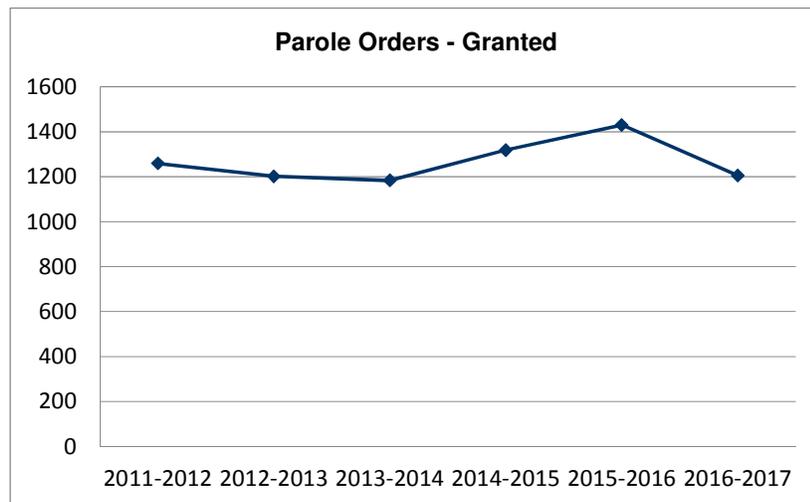
Please Note:

** Graphs include exceptional circumstances parole applications.*

Parole Orders – Granted

A total of 1205 parole orders were granted during the reporting period. This total included 8 exceptional circumstances parole orders.

	QPB	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Parole granted	145	736	316
Parole granted - Exceptional circumstances parole applications	1	7	0
Total number of parole applications granted	146	743	316



Please Note:

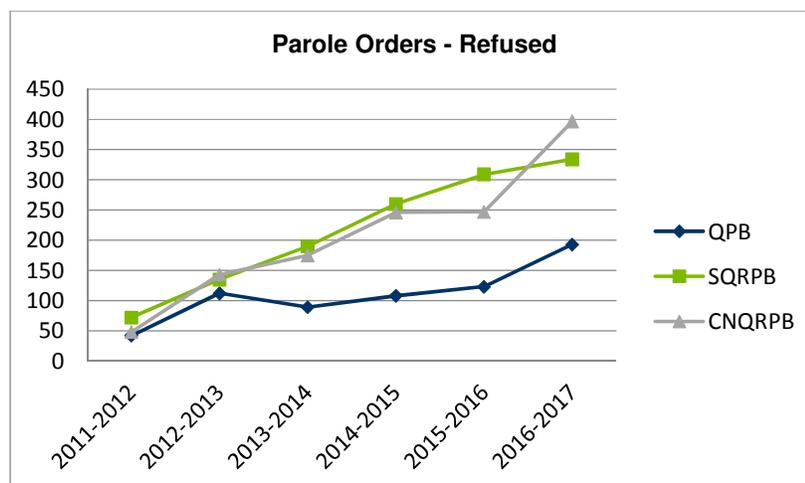
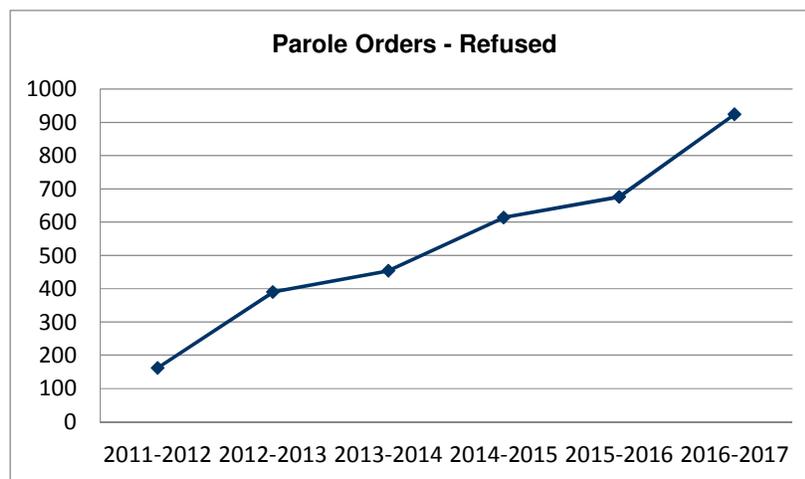
* Graphs include exceptional circumstances parole applications.

Parole Orders – Refused

A total of 929 parole applications were refused during the reporting period. This total included 44 exceptional circumstances parole applications.

	QPB	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Parole refused	181	325	379
Parole refused - Exceptional circumstances parole applications	12	14	18
Total number of parole applications refused	193	339	397

(The number of parole applications granted and refused by the Parole Boards during the 2016-2017 reporting period does not correlate with the number of new parole applications considered by the Parole Boards during the same period. This is a result of the Parole Boards considering parole applications that were not finalised during the reporting period which they were submitted).



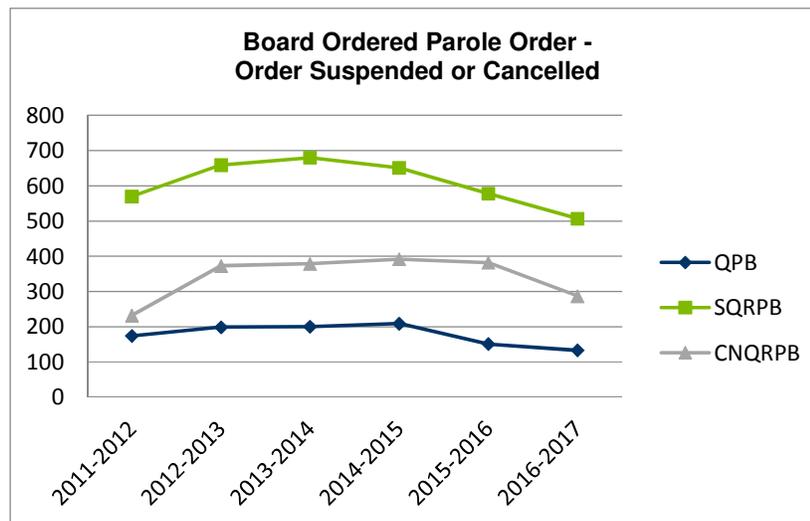
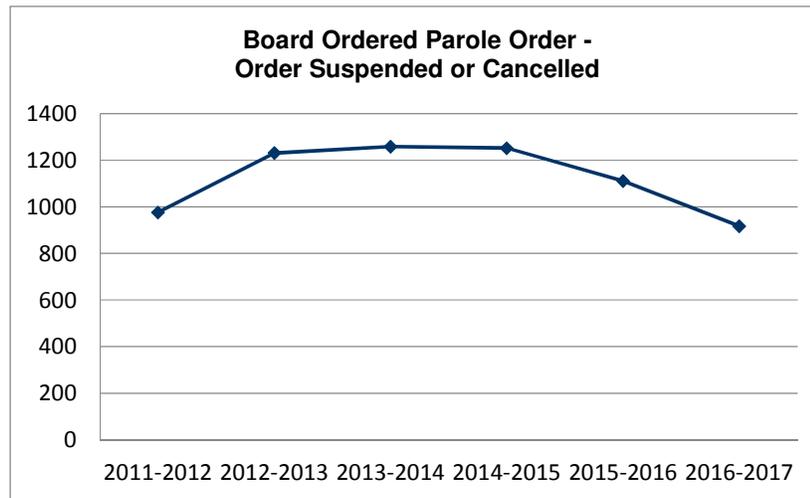
Please Note:

** Graphs include exceptional circumstances parole applications.*

Board Ordered Parole Orders – Order Suspended or Cancelled

During the 2016-2017 financial year, the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards suspended or cancelled a total of 927 board ordered parole orders.

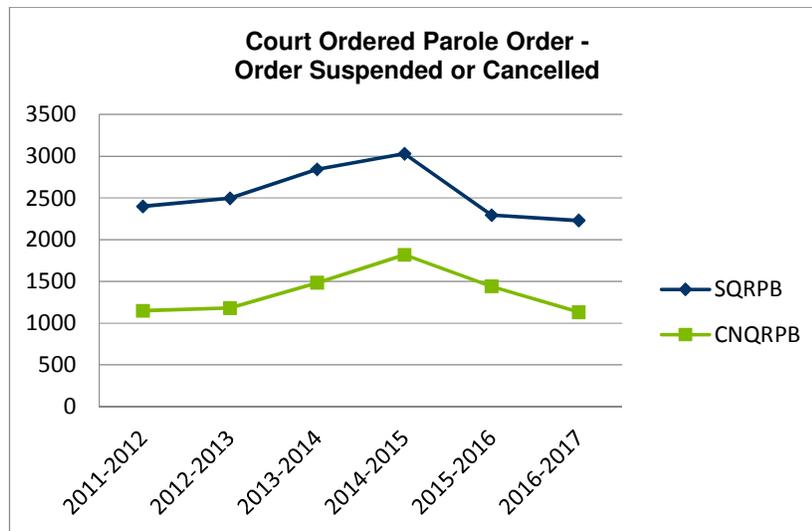
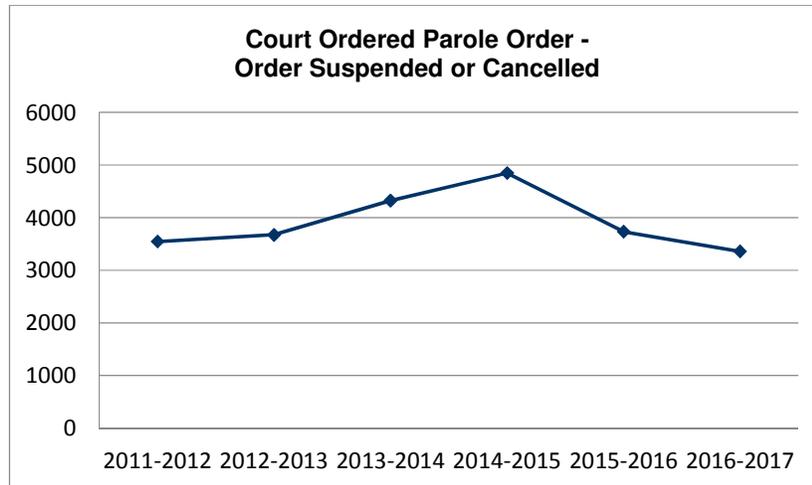
	QPB	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Suspended	62	318	139
Cancelled	71	189	148
Total number of suspensions / cancellations	133	507	287



Court Ordered Parole Orders – Order Suspended or Cancelled

During the 2016-2017 financial year, the two Regional Parole Boards suspended or cancelled a total of 3 361 court ordered parole orders.

	SQRPB	CNQRPB
Suspended	1 558	700
Cancelled	672	431
Total number of suspensions/cancellations	2 230	1 131



Interstate Parole Order Transfers

During the 2016-2017 financial year:

- 91 offenders transferred their parole orders into Queensland from another Australian State or Territory
- There were 6 offenders granted parole to another Australian State or Territory.
** The above number does not include offenders granted parole for the purpose of extradition.*

Statements of Reason – Section 32 of the *Judicial Review Act 1991*

During the 2016-2017 financial year, the Parole Boards received 209 requests for Statements of Reasons.

- A total of 164 were issued.
- A total of 51 were refused.

Please Note:

- * Not all Statement of Reasons requests are finalised during the reporting period.*
- * The total number of Statement of Reasons issued or refused during 2016-2017 includes requests received during the 2015-2016 reporting period.*

Judicial Review – Section 43 of the *Judicial Review Act 1991*

During the 2016-2017 financial year, 36 Judicial Review applications were referred to Crown Law for management.

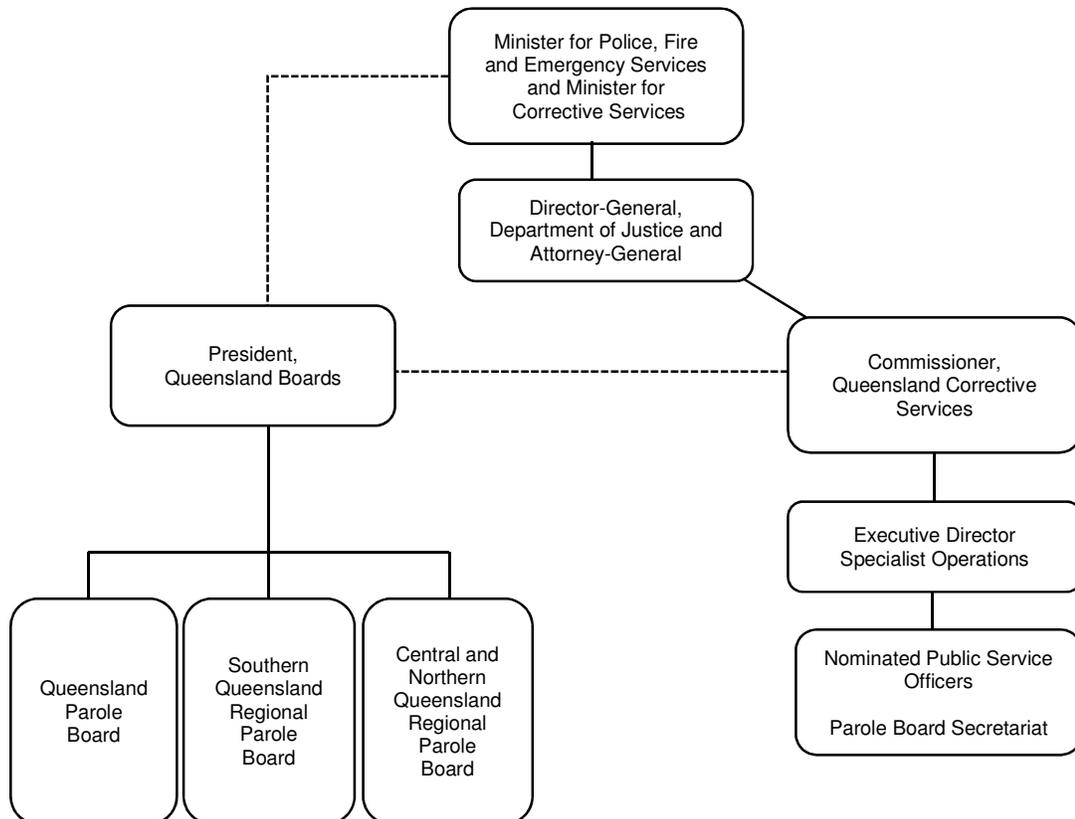
Parole Board Secretariat

The Parole Board Secretariat provided administrative support to the Queensland Parole Boards. There were two Secretariat offices; located at Woolloongabba and Townsville.

The role of the Parole Board Secretariat included:

- Processing matters for consideration by the Parole Boards;
- Minuting all meetings of the Parole Boards;
- Preparing all correspondence from Parole Board outcomes for prisoners, correctional centres, probation and parole and legal representatives;
- Generating warrants and parole orders;
- Liaising with internal and external stakeholders for and on behalf of the Parole Boards; and
- Compiling the Annual Report.

Organisational Chart – up to 30 June 2017



Queensland Parole System Review (QPSR)

On 1 December 2016, the Queensland Parole System Review Report (QPSR) was delivered by Mr Walter Sofronoff (QC) to the Queensland Government. The QPSR recommended that there should only be one parole board in Queensland that hears all applications for board ordered parole (QPSR Recommendation 35) and that the new parole board should be required to decide applications for parole within 120 days rather than 180 days of the application being made by a prisoner (QPSR Recommendation 51).

The **Parole Board Queensland** was established on the 3 July 2017 by the Queensland Government through the proclamation of the *Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Act 2017*. The Parole Board Queensland replaced three previous parole boards, the Queensland Parole Board, the Southern Regional Parole Board and the Central and Northern Regional Parole Board.

The Parole Board Queensland has 12 full-time members:

- 1 x President (Michael Byrne);
- 2 x Deputy Presidents (Julie Sharp and Peter Shields);
- 3 x Legal Professional Board Members (Kylie Anderson, Barbara Kent, Carolyn McAnally);
- 1 x Health Practitioner Professional Board Member (Beverley Russell);
- 2 x Police Representatives (Garry Henkel and Matt Saunders); and
- 3 x Public Service Representatives (Patricia Hasted, Fiona Southey and William Thirkill).

In addition, the Parole Board Queensland has 24 part-time Community Board Members. These members represent the diversity of Queensland. Of the total 36 Parole Board Queensland members, 15 are men, 21 are women, and 7 members identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people (QPSR Recommendations 37-41 and 45). Community Board Members are remunerated for their time spent reading and preparing in advance of a meeting (QPSR Recommendation 43).

The Parole Board Queensland is supported by an independent Parole Board Secretariat including 30 public servants in performing its functions – 3 legal officers and 27 administration officers.

Queensland Corrective Services delivered an initial training program for new Parole Board members between the 27th June and 29th June 2017 at the Pullman Hotel (Recommendation 47). Guest speakers included the Honorable Mark Ryan, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services and Justice Walter Sofronoff.

The Parole Board Queensland has the power to suspend a prisoner's parole order (QPSR Recommendation 78). Queensland Corrective Services delegates may apply to the Parole Board Queensland to suspend a parole order and issue a warrant for the prisoner's arrest. The power to suspend a prisoner's parole order is therefore now solely vested with the Parole Board Queensland.

A new premises has been provided to the Parole Board Queensland that is located in the Brisbane CBD. The new premises has several conference rooms to enable the Parole Board Queensland to conduct multiple and concurrent meetings. Videoconferencing equipment is being installed in each conference room to provide for increased offender appearances before the parole board (Recommendation 55).

The Parole Board Queensland is currently working in consultation with Queensland Corrective Services to ensure the effectiveness of the parole board's operations. This includes addressing QSPR recommendations such as:

- Developing and refining information and reports provided by Queensland Corrective Services to the Parole Board Queensland (Recommendation 49);
- Producing a practice guideline identifying the information and reports required by the Parole Board Queensland for serious offenders (Recommendation 57); and
- Reviewing information technology systems to support the functions of the Parole Board Queensland (Recommendation 53).

Michelle Moore
Director
Parole Board Implementation

Overview of Sentence Management Services

Sentence Management Services is responsible for sentence calculation and sentence administration functions, determining prisoner security classification, planning for prisoner rehabilitation and progression, determining prisoner placement, compilation of parole board reports to assist decision-making by the parole boards, effective utilisation of available beds whilst ensuring appropriate access to rehabilitative activities and progression, operational performance measurement and reporting, risk mitigation and development of procedures and standards for Specialist Operations business units.

The compilation of Parole Board Reports (PBRs) to assist decision making by the parole boards is a key focus for Sentence Management Services and this has been increasingly pertinent during the 2016-2017 period as prisoner numbers have continued to increase.

Sentence Management Services and the Parole Board Secretariat (PBS) continue to work together to improve the quality and timeliness of PBRs and notifications of parole board decisions.

Sentence Management Services has significantly improved compliance with Parole Board Report completion timeframes and continues to monitor compliance using the reporting services parole application tracking report. With the introduction of Internal Oversight Controls there is a focus on meeting minimum standards for the management of parole applications and Parole Board Reports.

Sentence Management Services and the Parole Board Secretariat will continue to work together to support community safety through the development of processes to gain efficiencies and by ensuring that the Parole Boards are provided with timely and complete information to assist in decision making and to ensure that suitable prisoners are released to the community at the earliest possible time.

Roberta Embrey
General Manager
Sentence Management Services

Overview of Probation and Parole

Once again, it has been an extremely busy year for the Probation and Parole Service (PPS). We have seen continued growth in offender's managed in the community, with a growth of 13 percent in offenders in 2016 alone. This growth has included an increase in the number of parolees supervised and therefore an increase in interactions with the Queensland Parole Boards.

The Probation and Parole Service have continued to work productively and positively with the Queensland Parole Boards throughout the year. This interaction includes providing input into new parole applications for prisoners, providing updates in relation to offender's progress on their orders, and providing relevant information upon suspension of a parolees order. The PPS also provide staff to act as the Nominated Public Service Officer on the Parole Board.

We have seen excellent support from the Parole Boards this year through the progression of a range of projects specifically aimed at the management of female prisoners and offenders. These projects have resulted in swifter decision making and ultimately greater preparation for female offenders upon their release or re-release from custody.

This year has also seen a number of changes to process impacting on the Parole Board, most notably, the introduction of a new re-entry service across Queensland. This and other changes have focused on streamlining service delivery and enhancing service to offenders in the community and the support of the Parole Board President and Deputy President, other members and the Parole Board Secretariat has been greatly appreciated.

As a result of the Queensland Parole System Review, a range of other changes and improvements are currently being progressed and we look forward to continue to work with the Parole Board as these changes get implemented throughout 2017.

Tygh Field
Director
Probation and Parole Operations

Overview of Offender Rehabilitation and Management Services

Offender Rehabilitation and Management Services (ORMS) provides oversight for delivery of assessment, education, offender programs, offender service such as chaplaincy services, and re-entry services. During the 2016-17 financial year, ORMS have developed and maintained a successful working relationship with the Board. This relationship has primarily been in relation to information sharing about initiatives and timely responses to the Boards request for information to assist in their decision making processes.

With increasing prisoner and offender numbers, ORMS' focus has been on developing strategies for increasing access and availability of services within available resources. This work will be further progressed through the Queensland Parole System Review which had a strong focus on expanding access and availability of rehabilitation services.

Rehabilitation programs are delivered by a combination of QCS staff and external service providers.

In 2016–17, there were 401 completions of sexual offending programs across correctional centres and probation and parole offices. This includes a preparatory program, high intensity sexual offender treatment program (correctional centre only), moderate intensity sexual offender treatment program, adapted inclusion sexual offender treatment program for prisoners with cognitive impairments (correctional centre only), culturally adapted Indigenous sexual offender treatment program (correctional centre only) and a maintenance program.

In 2016–17, there were 2580 completions of other programs across correctional centres and probation and parole offices including QCS staff delivering intensive violent offender treatment and substance abuse treatment programs. Additional programs include low intensity substance programs, youthful offender programs, playgroup and parenting programs, domestic violence programs, and resilience and wellbeing programs.

With increasing prisoner numbers, Queensland Corrective Services has implemented new, enhanced re-entry services to assist prisoners to succeed on parole in 2016–17. The 3 new services include:

- MARA – a co-designed, gender specific service for female prisoners in South East Queensland,
- Borallon Training and Correctional Centre Throughcare Service – a co-designed, centre-based service which places a strong focus on education and employment pathways, and
- CREST – a regionally based re-entry service in remaining facilities and regions.

Since these new re-entry services commenced, 6,344 prisoners have recipients of re-entry services (2016-17 SDS discontinued measure estimated actual) with 18,026 instances of contact while in prison. This is a substantial increase from 3,300 prisoners in previous years.

A total of 900 offenders were recipients of re-entry support after release with 2,286 instances of contact. The new re-entry services are providing more prisoners with

assistance to resolve barriers to resettlement in the community, which in turn, will contribute to reducing the risk of reoffending.

Availability of substance abuse interventions and post release housing continue to be challenges in the broader community sector, with development of innovative services to meet the needs of prisoners and offender to be considered through the Queensland Parole system Review.

Keiren Bennett

Director

Offender Rehabilitation and Management