

Queensland Parole Boards

2012–13 Annual Report

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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

DCS – Department of Community Safety
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

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President's Message

I am pleased to report a successful year for the independent Queensland Parole Boards.

This year we saw the appointment of a number of new members who I am pleased to say have contributed well and met the challenges and standards required to execute their responsibilities in such a demanding job.

The workload remains constant and in excess of 17 000 matters were considered by the Parole Boards this year.

This would not be possible without the mighty effort by the staff at the parole board secretariat, both in Brisbane and Townsville under the leadership of Director Tracey Crosby.

I am pleased to say that following discussions with the Minister the Honourable Jack Dempsey an electronic system of file management for the Board Members was introduced. This has been an outstanding service not only in cost saving but in more timely delivery of information to the Board Members.

Ongoing and updated information sessions were facilitated by the new Commissioner's delegate Tamara Bambrick. Board Members greatly benefited throughout the year.

As there are legislative requirements on the decision making timeframes, I am pleased to report that the department has played its role in meeting such timelines. The reports from both the jails and the probation and parole officers have been of good quality and timely received.

Part of my role is to instruct and advise of the numerous legal matters that come before the Boards. I am ably assisted by my three deputies who are qualified lawyers. Crown Law has given us good service. I regularly meet with Prisoners' Legal Service to discuss and resolve matters. A meeting with the Queensland Law Society was held to address their members concerns and regarding practices and procedures of the Boards.

I attended and participated in the Annual Australasian Parole Board Conference seeking to improve our practices and develop strategies for the future.

We are all committed to continued improvement in our work practices and I am very proud of all the Board Members and the staff in the pursuit of continuing improvement and work ethic.

Parole Boards deal with a diverse array of matters not only the granting of parole but the suspension, cancellation and amendment of orders to bring about a safe secure and trouble free reintegration of offenders back into society.

At all times community safety remains paramount.

Peter McInnes

President

Queensland Parole Boards

Contribution by the Director-General's Representative

2012 / 2013 has been a significant year for the parole board. The role of the Director-General's Representative has seen change to the traditional role which used to be focused upon parole board meetings, and has now expanded to be the responsible position for the end-to-end parole revitalisation project. So what can we see from 2012 / 2013 as a result? A significant movement in the practices of the entire system, through focus upon every element of a prisoners sentence being a contribution to the decision to release to parole. I have done much work with both the custodial field and the P&P field to attempt to identify those linkages where both areas share business. The Agency focus through 2012 / 2013 introduced us to the commonality of custodial and Probation and Parole, specifically through the merging of the two directorates to create the amalgamated directorate of Statewide Operations. Acknowledging that the two operational arms of the Agency were a shared business for amalgamation through head office, identified that there was much shared business where we could pool our resources and introduce and / or expand continuous case management. This has greatly advantaged the philosophy of end-to-end parole.

We are acutely aware of the fact that the majority of our prisoners will leave custody at some stage. We are also acutely aware of the fact that release to the community, via community supervision, is a far safer option for reintegration. Releasing prisoners to the community on a parole order enables a level of supervision and support to be continued in an environment where prisoners can receive intervention services, and simultaneously apply them. QCS has therefore taken the decision that our philosophy is to be one of preparing prisoners for release at the point in which we begin to induct them. This means that we start talking to, and preparing prisoners for, release at the point in which we induct them into the system. Our sentence plans are times at which we talk to prisoners about milestones, and how they can work to achieve them. They are also times to check those which are impeding their progression, and talk to them about what barriers they are putting in place to inhibit their progression. Continually holding our prisoners accountable to their progression, whilst simultaneously providing them with consistent and timely opportunities to progress, is the responsibility of the system. Doing this through every point of their sentence, from the beginning point of induction, through to release to the community, and then the end of their sentence (which should be occurring in the community), is the responsibility of our shared business.

The parole boards have continued to evolve through this period and it has been a year of referring to the evidence and literature for the basis for change. Swift and certain justice principles have been considered, and as we work through the application of this contemporary research, we are moving through change to the management of our parole returns. The board recognises that consequences are an important part of behavioural management and behavioural change, as do Probation and Parole - but whilst there is a necessity for consequences, there is a need to ensure that they are proportionate, necessary and commensurate to the poor decision or action evidenced. The board are excited at the prospect of change in this area, and the impact that this will have on both our prisoners, and our custodial environments.

Tamara Bambrick
Director-General's Representative
Queensland Parole Boards
(November 2012 – May 2013)

Contribution by a Nominated Public Service Officer regarding the implementation of electronic solution to the parole board

The Parole Board Secretariat is a little known area of QCS. With a sole purpose to provide all required support to the three independent boards, Secretariat staff have historically ensured that all files for reading at each meeting got to every member through a manual, labour intensive process.

Photocopies of each prisoner file to be considered (some up to 700 pages long) were made for each board member and packed every week into suitcases that were then couriered out. On the day of the meeting, on top of their suitcases of files they would bring with them for reference, there would be further matters stacked on the table that had come in between the time the suitcase was packed and the day of the meeting.

For both members and the Secretariat, these days are now history. On the 18 of January 2013, the Parole Boards moved to an electronic solution - iPads. Each prisoner file is now scanned at the boards once, and matters are loaded up to the devices each week. If there are matters that need to be added to the meeting, an email goes out to all members to advise that there is now another item on their list.

To say this has been a significant change in resourcing and culture would be an understatement. Board members have been supportive and engaged in the shift and worked with the Secretariat staff to problem solve any concerns along the way. The Information and Communication Systems team have been invaluable in ensuring that a solution was identified, implemented, and most importantly supported. This support has ensured that members see prompt resolutions to any issues they raise.

Having been involved in a review of the Secretariat in 2007, and participating as a delegate for the Director-General now on the Southern Queensland Board, it has been amazing to watch the seamless shift in practice in the team there, who have done and continue to do an amazing job behind the scenes.

Anne Morgan
Nominated Public Service Officer
Queensland Parole Boards

Chapter 5 (sections 176-247) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* detail the functions, operations and membership of the Queensland Parole Boards.

Parole Boards

The parole boards are independent statutory bodies. Parole board members are appointed by the Governor in Council.

There are three parole boards within Queensland:

- Queensland Parole Board;
- Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board; and
- Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

The parole boards determine parole applications, amendments, suspension and cancellation of parole orders.

The Parole Boards primary consideration is community safety.

Queensland Parole Board

The Queensland Parole Board considers parole matters for offenders in all centres and regions sentenced to a period of eight years imprisonment or more.

Other matters considered/determined by the Parole Board include:

- Progress reports for life sentenced prisoners;
- Applications for interstate travel for a period more than seven days; and
- Applications for international travel, regardless of sentence length.

During this financial year, the Queensland Parole Board farewelled Board members Margo McGillvray (Deputy President) and Bernard Rowley.

In August 2012, the Board welcomed Board members Stuart Shearer (Deputy President) and Francis Lippett. In February 2013, Board member Ian Davies* was welcomed.

Mr Stuart Shearer resigned from his position of Deputy President following his appointment to the bench of the Magistrates Court of Queensland in December 2012. Subsequently, Francis Lippett was appointed as Deputy President.

* Mr Ian Davies is appointed to both the Queensland Parole Board and the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

Nathan was convicted in the Brisbane Magistrates Court for the offence of Stealing. He was sentenced to one year imprisonment, and released on the same day of sentencing to a court ordered parole order. Two months into supervision, Nathan failed to report as directed. His supervising officer was unable to contact him via telephone and no response was received following a letter being sent to his reported address. His court ordered parole order was suspended and a warrant was issued for his arrest. On his return to custody, Nathan provided a submission for the Boards consideration, describing the reasons behind his breach of parole. The Parole Board maintained the suspension of the parole order and requested that Nathan provide an address for where he intended on residing in the community. Nathan's nominated address was assessed as unsuitable by Probation and Parole. The Board accepted the recommendation in the assessment and requested another address be submitted. The nominated address did not offer Nathan an acceptable level of support. A further address was assessed as suitable for Nathan's release. The Board lifted the parole suspension and Nathan was released into the community. Nathan completed the remainder of his sentence in the community without incident.

Regional Parole Boards

The Regional Parole Boards consider matters for offenders that are sentenced to a period of imprisonment less than eight years.

Other matters considered/determined by the Parole Board include:

- Applications for interstate travel for a period more than seven days (excluding those subject to Court Ordered Parole); and
- All decisions (excluding international travel) for offenders subject to a Court Ordered Parole Order.

There are two Regional Parole Boards:

- Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board; and
- Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

The Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board considers matters generated by the following custodial facilities and Probation and Parole regions:

- Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre;
- Southern Queensland Correctional Centre;
- Brisbane Correctional Centre;
- Brisbane Womens Correctional Centre;
- Helana Jones Centre;
- Numinbah Correctional Centre;
- Palen Creek Correctional Centre;
- Wolston Correctional Centre;
- Woodford Correctional Centre;
- North Coast Region;
- South Coast Region;
- Southern Region; and
- Brisbane Region.

The Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board considers matters generated by the following custodial facilities and Probation and Parole regions:

- Capricornia Correctional Centre;
- Lotus Glen Correctional Centre;
- Townsville Correctional Centre;
- Townsville Women's Correctional Centre;
- Maryborough Correctional Centre;
- Central Region;
- Northern Region; and
- Far Northern Region.

During this financial year, the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board farewelled board members Julie Sims and Isla Gillespie. The Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board farewelled Alec Illin, Francis Quirk, Priscilla Page, Christine Richardson and Dale Last.

In August 2012, the Regional Boards welcomed the following members:

- Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board
- Ian Davies

- Melissa Sands
- Richard Williams
- Michael Woodford.

Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board:

- Gavin Kumsing
- Karl McKenzie
- Allen Miller
- Malcolm Topp
- Dr Garry Kidd
- Dale Last*
- Rosemary Connors**

* Mr Dale Last was appointed as a member to the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board during the financial year, however resigned following his appointment as a senior Queensland Government position.

** Ms Rosemary Connors is appointed to both the Queensland Parole Board and the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

As at 30 June 2013, the membership of the Parole Boards included:

| Board | Psychologist or Doctor | Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander Person | Female | Male |
|--------|------------------------|---|--------|------|
| QPB | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4* |
| SQRPB | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7* |
| CNQRPB | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7* |

* The President is appointed to all three Boards.

Total number of Governor in Council appointments, including the President:

- 22 as at 30 June 2013.

During the financial year, the following Queensland Corrective Services employees were delegated the authority of parole board membership, in accordance with sections 218 and 232 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*:

- Andrew Leese (Director-General’s Representative July 2012)
- Tamara Bambrick (Director-General’s Representative November 2012-May 2013)
- Sharon McCallum-Clark (Director-General’s Representative June 2013 – current)
- Tracey Crosby
- Gil Hainey
- Kristine Winter
- Louise Kneeshaw
- Sally Gray
- Anne Morgan
- Mark Spehr
- Chel Howarth
- Joanne Hughes
- Julie Steinheuer.

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Nicola was sentenced to a period of five years imprisonment for the offence of Stealing as a servant. She submitted an application for parole. The application was considered by the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board. Nicola had demonstrated acceptable institutional behaviour during her custodial sentence. She had also completed vocational courses to increase her employment opportunities. Nicola was accommodated at a low security facility. The Board granted Nicola release to parole. The parole order included additional conditions regarding the types of employment she was able to access and the duties she was able to perform during that employment. These conditions included not having control or access to company funds or assets and to disclose her offending behaviour to any prospective employer.

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Sections 194 and 199 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* relate to parole orders.

Queensland Parole Orders

There are two types of parole orders in Queensland:

- Court Ordered Parole Order; or
- Board Ordered Parole Order.

Court Ordered Parole

Prisoner's sentenced to a period of imprisonment of three years or less (excluding sexual offences or serious violent offenders), who have a parole release date fixed by the Court.

Board Ordered Parole

Prisoner's sentenced to a period of imprisonment and have a parole eligibility date, must apply to a Parole Board for release on a parole order.

A prisoner can not apply for parole if:

- A prisoner has more than 180 days until the parole eligibility date fixed by the Court;
- If the date specified by the Board at which to reapply has not been reached; and/or
- If the prisoner has lodged an appeal with the Court against his/her conviction or sentence.

A prisoner can not be released to a parole order until he/she has reached the parole eligibility date, except if granted an exceptional circumstances parole order.

Exceptional Circumstances Parole

A prisoner can apply at anytime for Exceptional Circumstances Parole and if granted, be released from custody prior to his/her parole eligibility date.

Applying for Parole

To apply for release to a parole order the following applications must be completed by a prisoner:

- Form 29 – Application By Prisoner For Parole Order; and/or
- Form 28 – Application By Prisoner For Exceptional Circumstances Parole Order.

On receipt of a Parole Application, the sentence management team will prepare a Parole Board Report which is to be forwarded to the Parole Board for consideration.

Parole Board timeframes

The parole board has 180 days to determine an application for parole or 210 days if it has deferred for additional information.

Additional information required may include:

- Medical advice;
- Additional Home Assessment Reports;
- Updated behavioural report;
- Court documents; and
- Psychiatric/psychological reports.

Parole Order Conditions

Section 200 of the Act, details the conditions which must be included in a Parole Order.

The Act allows the Board to include additional conditions to a prisoner's parole order that it considers necessary to ensure the prisoner's good conduct whilst subject to the order and/or to stop the prisoner from committing a further offence.

Travel

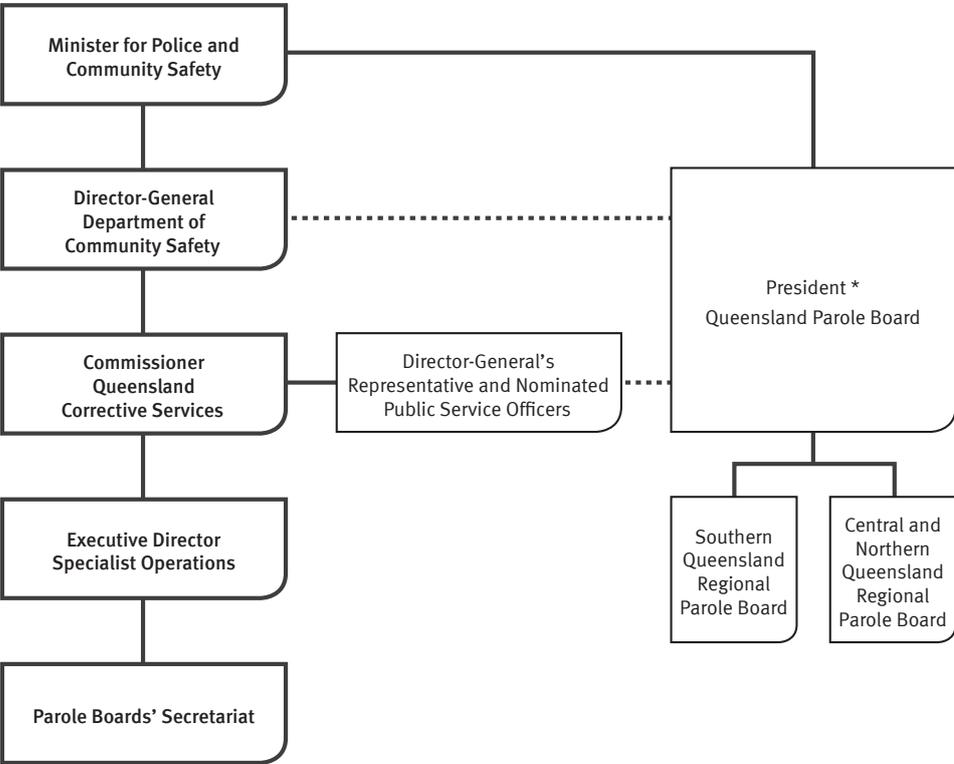
The relevant Parole Board will determine applications for Interstate Travel where the travel period exceeds seven days.

The Queensland Board has the authority to grant overseas travel to offenders subject to both Court Ordered and/or Board Ordered Parole Orders. Overseas travel must be for a stated period, for compassionate grounds in exceptional circumstances.

Upon the offender's request to travel, the supervising Probation and Parole Officer will submit a report to the Parole Board for consideration.

Peter was sentenced to a period of 8 years imprisonment for the offence of Assault occasioning bodily harm. Peter made an application for parole to the Queensland Parole Board. The Board noted the comments of the General Manager and Sentence Management Team that Peter had demonstrated unacceptable institutional behaviour throughout his custodial sentence. The Queensland Parole Board considered the application for parole and decided to issue Peter with a preliminary decision not to grant a parole order. Peter was provided reasons for the Board's decision, along with copies of all material considered by the Board. Peter was provided fourteen days to provide further submissions. Peter did not submit any further information in regards to his application. The Board considered the matter following the expiry of the fourteen day response period. The Board decided to refuse Peter's application for parole.

Organisational Chart



* The President of the Queensland Parole Board is also the President of the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

Parole Board Secretariat

The Parole Board Secretariat is a unit within Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), Specialist Operations Unit and it provides administration support to the three Parole Boards operating in Queensland.

The role of the Parole Board Secretariat includes:

- 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 Queensland Parole Board Annual Report.

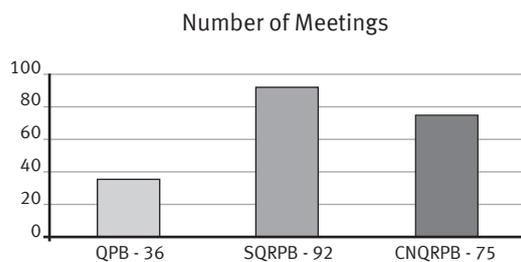
There are two Parole Board Secretariat offices.

The Brisbane office provides administrative support to the Queensland Parole Board and the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board. The Townsville office provides administrative support to the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board.

The Director of the Parole Board Secretariat is responsible for the operations of both secretariat offices.

Number of Meetings

During the 2012-2013 financial year there were a total of 203 Parole Board meetings.



*The number of meetings does not include *BOOSTs.*

* *BOOSTs (Board Out Of Session Teleconferences) occur when an urgent matter is identified and there is not a meeting being held within the required timeframe.*

A BOOST occurs via teleconference and there must be a minimum of four Board members (a quorum). The President or a Deputy President and a Nominated Public Service Officer must be present during these meetings.

During the 2012-2013 financial year, there were a total of 244 BOOSTs conducted.

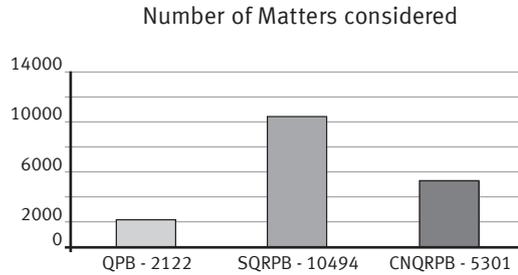
QPB – 85

SQRPB – 108

CNQRPB – 51

Number of Matters considered

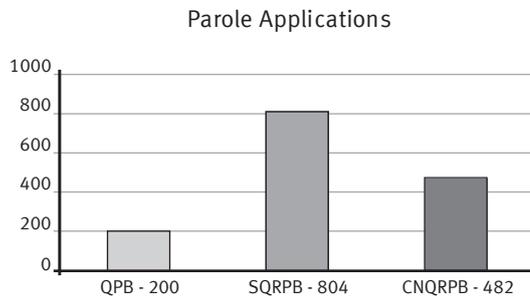
During the 2012-2013 financial year, the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards considered a total of 17917 matters.



The number of matters includes 304 matters considered during BOOSTs.

Parole Applications

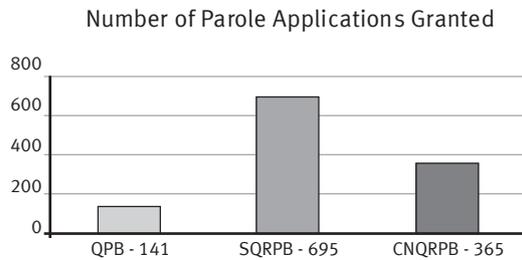
During the 2012-2013 financial year, the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards considered a total of 1486 applications, 24 of which were applications for Exceptional Circumstances Parole.



The Queensland Board considered 5 exceptional circumstances parole applications, the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board considered 14 exceptional circumstances parole applications and the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board considered 5 exceptional circumstances parole applications.

Number of Parole Applications Granted

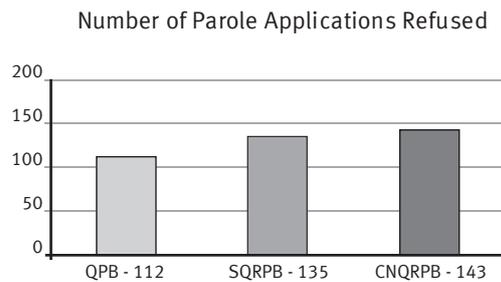
During the 2012-2013 financial year the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards granted a total of 1201 parole applications, 5 of which were Exceptional Circumstances Parole applications.



The Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board granted 5 exceptional circumstances parole applications during this financial year. There were no exceptional circumstances parole applications granted by the Queensland Parole Board or Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board during this period.

Number of Parole Applications Refused

During the 2012-2013 financial year, the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards refused a total of 390 parole applications, 12 of which were applications for Exceptional Circumstances Parole.



The Queensland Parole Board refused 5 exceptional circumstances parole applications during this financial year. The Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board refused 7 exceptional circumstances parole applications during this financial year. There were no exceptional circumstances parole applications refused by the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board during this period.

(The number of parole applications granted and refused by the Parole Boards during the 2012-2013 financial year 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 financial year which they were submitted).

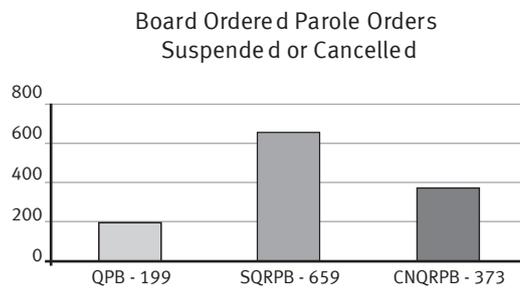
Interstate Transfer Applications

During the 2012-2013 financial year:

- 51 offenders transferred their parole orders into Queensland from another Australian State or Territory; and
- 44 offenders transferred their Queensland Parole Orders to another Australian State or Territory.

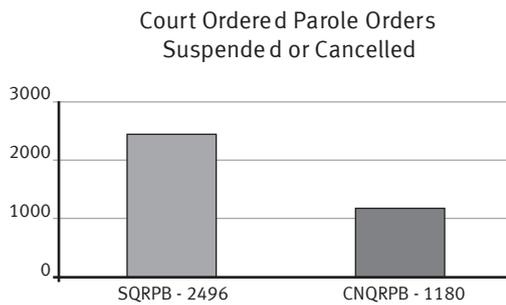
Board Ordered Parole Orders Suspended or Cancelled

During the 2012-2013 financial year the Queensland Parole Board and two Regional Parole Boards suspended or cancelled a total of 1231 Board Ordered Parole Orders.



Court Ordered Parole Orders Suspended or Cancelled

During the 2012-2013 financial year the two Regional Parole Boards suspended or cancelled a total of 3676 Court Ordered Parole Orders.



Overview of Offender Rehabilitation and Management Services

Offender Rehabilitation and Management Services is part of Specialist Operations. The branch is made of three units:

Offender Intervention

The Offender Intervention Unit (OIU) provides oversight of offender programs and external services within the Agency, with a focus on programs targeting high risk offenders including sexual offenders, violent offenders, and substance abuse related offending.

The unit sets state-wide delivery targets and monitors performance against these targets. The unit build agency capability in delivery of high quality offender programs that reduce reoffending through staff training, program development and site monitoring.

In 2012-2013 financial year 412 completions of sexual offending programs were achieved, with 1226 completions of other offending focussed programs.

A key responsibility of the unit is evaluation of the effectiveness of offender programs.

The unit is also responsible for identifying service delivery gaps and working with community partners to address them, using program accreditation processes to ensure new programs and external services support offender rehabilitation.

In 2012/2013 a total of \$1.36 million was administered by OIU for delivery of external services that aim to support offenders and their families, including Chaplaincy services, Visitor Transportation, and Elder Visitation.

Education and Employment

The Education and Employment Unit is responsible for the provision and delivery of adult education, nationally accredited vocational education and training (VET) and literacy/numeracy programs within all Queensland correctional centres and some Probation and Parole District Offices. VET training focuses on the acquisition of vocational skills leading to employment on release. The unit also manages the Advance2Work program which is an employment assistance service that operates on a throughcare model, offering continuity of support from custody to community. It supports prisoners to become work ready and to gain and maintain employment post release.

Over 3800 individual prisoners participated in at least one vocational training courses during 2012/2013, with over 1600 courses delivered across the state.

In the financial year 2012-2013, 1923 prisoners enrolled on Advance2work, with 333 ex-prisoners supported to gain and maintain employment for 13+ weeks.

Offender Management

The Offender Management Unit has oversight a range of offender assessment tools (e.g. Risk of Re-offending, Rehabilitation Needs Assessment, Immediate Risk Needs Assessment) and offender management activities, particularly for vulnerable offenders. This includes, but is not limited to the management of offenders with a mental illness or cognitive impairment, and those at-risk of suicide or self harm.

The Offender Management Unit is also responsible for coordinating reporting activities for Specialist Operations, including responses regarding deaths in custody and contributions to whole-of-government action plans.

Keiren Bennett

Director

Offender Rehabilitation and Management Services

