

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Adult Parole Board

19 December 2018

The Adult Parole Board Annual Report for the 2017-18 reporting year was tabled in Parliament today. The report notes:

- there has been a 93 per cent reduction in the number of persons convicted of committing a serious violent offence or sex offence on parole over five years (from 60 persons in 2013-14 to four in 2017-18)
- 79 per cent of prisoners completed their parole in 2017-18 (this is the highest rate of parole completions since comparable records have been kept dating back to 2000-01)
- 1,680 prisoners applied for parole in 2017-18 compared with 1,689 in 2016-17
- 94 per cent of eligible prisoners chose to apply for parole at their earliest opportunity
- the Board made 1,509 decisions to grant or deny parole (including re-parole)
- the Board granted parole in 53 per cent of parole application decisions and denied parole in 47 per cent of decisions (denied decisions include prisoners who withdrew their application)
- the Board cancelled parole for 156 prisoners in 2017-18 (this is a 24 per cent reduction from 2016-17 and an 80 per cent reduction from 2013-14)
- there were 858 prisoners on parole at 30 June, the first increase in the last five years.

In his foreword, the Board's Chairperson His Honour Peter Couzens asserts that the data shows that 'Victoria's parole system has stabilised with significant benefits to both parolees and the Victorian community as a whole'.

During 2017-18, a number of organisations within Victoria, around Australia and internationally – including the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Parole Board of England and Wales and the Parole Board Queensland – consulted with the Board to learn about its operations, practices, procedures, governance structure and experiences.

The Adult Parole Board Annual Report 2017-18 is available at [adultparoleboard.vic.gov.au](http://adultparoleboard.vic.gov.au)

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