

Media Release

From the Adult Parole Board

27 October 2016

Adult Parole Board Annual Report 2015-16

The Adult Parole Board Annual Report for the 2015–16 reporting year was tabled in Parliament today.

The report provides clear evidence that the recommendations of the 2013 review of the Victorian parole system, undertaken by former High Court Justice Ian Callinan AC, have been implemented thoroughly, expeditiously and successfully, with consequential benefits for community safety.

The report notes that there has been a significant reduction in the number of persons convicted of committing a serious violent or sexual offence while on parole. In 2015-16, 13 persons were convicted compared with 60 persons in 2013-14. This represents a 78.3 per cent reduction over three years. This reduction indicates that the extensive suite of parole reforms are working.

In his foreword, the Board's Chairperson His Honour Peter Couzens acknowledged the Victorian Auditor General's Office February 2016 report on their audit of the parole system. The audit found that parole reforms 'have resulted in a better informed and resourced Adult Parole Board, better trained and supported parole officers and better information sharing between the Adult Parole Board and Victoria Police regarding parolee behaviour'.

'Although the audit concluded that it's too early to determine the impacts of the Parole System Reform Program on public safety, it nevertheless found that there is some indication that the reforms have reduced the risk that prisoners pose to the community,' said His Honour Peter Couzens.

There has been a 50.5 per cent decrease in the number of notifications received from Victoria Police about prisoners who are suspected of breaching their parole. The Board decided to cancel parole for 62.2 per cent of notifications received.

The Board has been efficient at deciding whether a prisoner's parole will be cancelled following a suspected breach of parole notification. The Board made its decision on the same day of the notification in 60 per cent of cases, and within one working day in 40 per cent of cases.

2015-16 was the first full reporting year that prisoners have needed to apply for parole, rather than be considered automatically. During the year, 1,841 prisoners applied for parole which shows that the majority of prisoners are using their time in prison to prepare themselves for release on parole. Of the applications received, the Board decided to grant parole or re-parole to two-thirds of prisoners and deny parole or re-parole to one-third of prisoners.

- As at 30 June 2016, there were 981 prisoners on parole.
- 733 prisoners completed their parole during 2015-16.
- The Board cancelled parole for 387 prisoners during 2015-16.

The Adult Parole Board Annual Report 2015-16 is available at corrections.vic.gov.au

