

# Media Release

## From the Adult Parole Board

8 October 2015

The Adult Parole Board Annual Report for the 2014-15 reporting year was tabled in Parliament today.

The Annual Report documents the Board's activities, operations, and performance over 2014-15. In particular, the report provides an overview of the reforms implemented throughout the year and reports on their operation.

In his foreword, Acting Chairperson His Honour Frank Shelton acknowledges the progress of the Board's journey into modernisation.

'It has been another year of significant, system-wide changes, with the Board consolidating its reform agenda and bedding down the recommendations from the multiple parole system reviews of recent years,' Judge Shelton said.

'The Board makes decisions with the safety and protection of the community as its paramount consideration, and prisoners no longer labour under the false presumption that parole is an automatic entitlement.'

The Board reports, for the second year running, on the number of people convicted on serious violence or sexual offences, committed while on parole. While in 2013-14 this figure was 60 parolees in respect of 97 offences, in 2014-15, 22 parolees were convicted in respect of 38 offences, a 63.3 per cent reduction.

'This attests to the tangible impact that recent reforms have had on the parole system,' Judge Shelton said.

Other notable trends and parole reforms include:

- a stabilisation in the number of parole orders granted, denied, and cancelled, with a low overall ratio of parole orders granted in relation to the number of prisoners eligible for parole
- a solid first year of operation of the Board's 'two tier system' for serious violent or sexual offenders (SVOSOs) – the SVOSO Division considered 750 matters in 2014-15
- the commencement of the requirement for prisoners to formally apply to the Board for parole
- 198 notifications received from Victoria Police of an alleged breach of parole, over half of which resulted in continuing detention of the parolee and subsequent cancellation of parole.

Recently appointed Chairperson, His Honour Peter Couzens, acknowledged the work of His Honour Frank Shelton and former Chairperson The Hon. E William Gillard QC.

'I thank them for their hard work overseeing the Board's contribution to parole system reforms,' Judge Couzens said.

*The 2014-15 Annual Report is available from the Corrections Victoria website at [Adult Parole Board of Victoria Annual Reports](#).*

