

Media Release

From the Adult Parole Board

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Adult Parole Board Annual Report 2013–14

The Adult Parole Board Annual Report for the 2013–14 financial year was tabled in Parliament today.

In his foreword, Chairperson Bill Gillard QC acknowledges the recent scrutiny of the parole system, and the significant reforms that were achieved over 2013–14 in response to the comprehensive reviews by the Sentencing Advisory Council and former High Court Justice Ian Callinan AC.

‘The Board has fully cooperated with each of these reviews and has itself made major reforms in response to their recommendations,’ Justice Gillard said.

‘The effects of those reforms are evident in the data contained in this report... 2013–14 has seen a remarkable 36 percent fall in the number of parole orders made.’

The reforms include extensive preparations for new legislative provisions that came into operation on 1 July 2014. Notably, the Board ensured a smooth transition to new ‘breach of parole’ legislation, which makes it a criminal offence to breach certain parole conditions. The Board also prepared for the creation of a two-tiered system to govern the granting of parole to serious violent offenders and sexual offenders, ensuring robust and consistent decision-making.

Furthermore, the Board achieved major administrative reforms over 2013–14, including the appointment of a full-time Chair and four full-time members, and the digitisation of the paper filing system, enhancing efficient operation.

Importantly, the Board reports for the first time on the number of parolees convicted of serious violent or sexual offences over the financial year.

‘In 2013–14, 60 offenders were convicted of such offences,’ Justice Gillard said. However, ‘the overwhelming majority of these convictions related to decisions and actions that occurred in previous years and prior to many of the reforms.’

The Adult Parole Board Annual Report presents a record of the Board’s activities, operations, performance and achievements over 2013–14. A PDF and accessible Word version of the Annual Report are available from the Corrections Victoria website at [Adult Parole Board of Victoria Annual Reports](#).

