

Strengthening parole to make communities safer and reduce reoffending

Factsheet – May 2017

Changes to the parole system will enable smarter management of parolees and help protect the community.

A voice for victims

The Corrective Services Victims Register will be used to notify registered victims when there are significant changes to the offender's circumstances in custody, including when an offender is being considered for parole. This will give victims the opportunity to submit a statement to be considered during the State Parole Authority's (SPA) decision making process.

Swift and escalating penalties for parole breaches

- The management of parole breaches will be improved by giving Community Corrections Officers more tools to manage less serious breaches of parole in real time, instead of referring all breaches to the SPA.
- Serious breaches will still be reported to the SPA.
- Similar programs aimed at managing an offender's risk and keeping the community safe have been successfully implemented in the Northern Territory and Queensland.
- The SPA will have the power to revoke parole when it has concerns about community safety, even where there is no breach.

Mandatory supervision

- Supervision will be a mandatory parole condition. Supervision is the best method of reducing reoffending. Less crime means fewer victims in our community.
- Community Corrections Officers are best placed to manage parolees.

Smarter decision making

Community safety will be the SPA's primary consideration when making parole decisions.

The SPA will consider a broader range of factors when deciding if an offender can be released on parole, including:

- disclosure of a victim's remains, for those convicted of murder or manslaughter, with the power to decide 'no body, no parole' and
- intelligence on offenders' links to, or support for, terrorist acts or violent extremism, even if they have not been sentenced for terrorism offences.

The SPA will be provided with broader powers to reconsider parole for offenders, and suitable candidates will be eligible for supervised home reintegration detention.

Benefits for victims and the community

- Registered victims will be better informed about the status of their offender in the justice system.
- Greater supervision of parolees and swift and escalating penalties for parole breaches, will reduce reoffending and improve community safety.

This reform builds on recommendations of the NSW Law Reform Commission Parole Report and will help deliver tough and smart justice for safer communities

For more information go to:

www.justice.nsw.gov.au/reform