

Prisoners Review Board of Western Australia



PRISONERS

REVIEW

BOARD

Annual Report

For the year ended 30 June 2007





PRISONERS REVIEW BOARD

Foreword

Jim McGinty MLA

In accordance with section 112 of the *Sentence Administration Act 2003*, I present to you the Annual Report of the Prisoners Review Board of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2007.

Judge Valerie French
Chairman
Prisoners Review Board

Cover Page

The header is the same as the Board's website and depicts the Board's role in the sentencing process. It starts with the Chairman of the Board the Hon Judge Valerie French followed by the gatehouse of Casuarina Prison; representative of persons incarcerated, with the Board sitting as is required and the community into which prisoners are released. This is surrounded at each end by the floral emblem of the State of Western Australia and to the right the outline of the State.

The picture at the foot of the page is the Chairman and other Board members.



PRISONERS REVIEW BOARD

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Profile

Our Objective

Our objective is to meet our statutory obligation under the Sentence Administration Act 2003 having the safety of the community as our paramount consideration at all times.

Who we are

In 2005, the Government established the Inquiry into the Management of Offenders in Custody and in the Community, known as the Mahoney Inquiry.

The function of the Inquiry was to examine the management of offenders in Western Australia, including the operation of the Parole Board.

The Inquiry highlighted the unpredictability of human nature and the subsequent difficulties encountered by the Parole Board in its decision making. It identified that there was a tendency to attract adverse media coverage, when a decision made by the Parole Board appeared flawed.

The Inquiry reported that, in many cases, the criticism was unwarranted as the circumstances were often beyond the Parole Board's control.



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The capacity to interact with the community, offenders and the justice system as a whole, was also limited.

Subsequent amendments to the Sentence Administration Act 2003 have resulted in the creation of the Prisoners Review Board to replace the Parole Board.

On 28 January 2007, the Act was proclaimed and the Prisoners Review Board began operation.

What we do

The Prisoners Review Board was established on 28 January 2007. It has authority to grant, defer or refuse parole, taking into account factors affecting the offender, victims of crime and, most importantly, the safety of the community.

The Board also considers re-entry release orders and make recommendations about re-socialisation programs for various categories of prisoners.

Chairman and Board Members



Chairman

Judge Valerie French - is a graduate of the University of Western Australia and has practised law as a solicitor and barrister since 1973. A Judge of the District Court since 1994 and President of the Children's Court from 1999 to 2001, Judge French was formerly a Stipendiary Magistrate and Children's Court Magistrate. Whilst appointed as the Chairperson of the Prisoners Review Board, Judge French retains her appointment as a District Court Judge.



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Deputy Chairpersons

Sandra De Maio - is a legal practitioner experienced in family law and, more recently, as a prosecutor with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, in criminal law. Sandra has a real understanding of the difficulties and cultural barriers that face non-English speaking migrants.

Denzil McCotter - retired in 2003 after 25 years in the public service with notable appointments as the Director of Prisons, Director of Community Corrections and the Executive Director of Corrective Services. She is currently a member of the Board of RUAH, Chairperson of the Child Death Review Committee, member of the Public Housing Review Panel and is an Adjunct Research Fellow of Curtin University of Technology.

Community Members

Georgia Prideaux - was a member of the former Parole Board. She is an advocate for victims issues and holds the position of Director, Harm Effected Rescue Organisation (HERO). She is studying psychology and justice as part of a degree. She is also a representative on the Supervised Release Review Board (SRRB) for juveniles.

Barbara Hostalek - is an Indigenous person and practising veterinary surgeon operating her own business. She brings to the Board knowledge, experience and insight in culturally sensitive issues.

Guyatt Hall - is the Associate Dean (Research) School of Law, Murdoch University, with many years experience as a clinical and forensic psychologist. He is involved in research on high risk violent offending, and has published papers in this area.

Edward Casley - is an Indigenous person of Yamatji descent. He has experience working in the criminal justice system and knowledge of programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Men Without Hats and sex offender counselling. He brings to the Board a broad experience in the area of cultural diversity.

Stuart Flynn - has extensive qualifications, training, knowledge and experience in the fields of health and community care services. He was the first Western Australian to be awarded the Menzies Scholarship by the Australian-Britain Society which enabled him to travel to the United Kingdom to study services to victims of crime.

Merrilee Garnett - is a legal practitioner who has experience working with Aboriginal people while working as a native title lawyer throughout Western Australia. She has an awareness of Aboriginal cultural issues and a broad understanding of issues such as unemployment, substance abuse, mental illness and housing.



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John James - is a registered psychologist who was appointed to the Mental Health Review Board in January 2006. He is also a senior sessional member of the State Administrative Tribunal providing him with experience in the objective determination process.

Rosa Lincoln - is a teacher currently employed by the Department of Education and Training as the District Director (Schools) Esperance. She currently sits on several Boards and is the Ministerial Chair of the Rural, Remote and Regional Women's Reference Group. She has a formal board qualification indicating her ability to bring to the Board a social justice perspective.

Gretchen Norgard - is a counsellor and mediator and in her final year of a Bachelor of Psychology at Edith Cowan University. She has extensive knowledge of issues relating to victims of crime, domestic violence and gambling addiction and their effects in the community.

Janine Phillips - is a horticulturalist undertaking a Bachelor of Education degree at Curtin University of Technology. As an employer, she has managed a culturally diverse workforce which has given her an understanding of Indigenous and overseas cultures, religions and customs.

Department of Corrective Services and Police Representatives

Additional to the members mentioned above, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Corrective Services; being the Public Sector agency assisting the Board, will appoint as many officers as are necessary to deal with the workload of the Board.

Appointments from this agency are representative of the Adult Custodial and Community Justice divisions.

The Commissioner of Police is also required to appoint as many police officers as are necessary to deal with the workload of the Board.

It is acknowledged that these officers bring to the Board an extensive knowledge and experience in law enforcement and an understanding of criminal behaviour.



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Message From The Chairman



The past year has farewelled the Parole Board (1964/2007) and heralded the new Prisoners Review Board. The legislative amendments, supplemented by an increase in resources and additional administrative support have enabled the new Board to initiate a number of changes in operational procedures including:-

- An increase in the number of meetings each week which allows the Board to spend more time on individual cases;
- The provision of video-link technology so that the Board can conduct personal interviews with prisoners when necessary;
- Visits to prisons throughout the State to gain a better appreciation of the conditions in prisons, the range of rehabilitation and vocational programs available and to inform prisoners about the parole process and what is required of them;
- A new website providing an opportunity for the public to understand the process of parole, how the decisions are reached and why they are made. Individual decisions are published on the website if such publication is considered to be in the public interest;
- The ability to obtain independent expert reports and psychological risk assessments when required;
- Enhanced communication strategies to assist a public understanding of the functions of the Board including visits and addresses to community groups;
- Training and ongoing professional development of Board Members and administrative staff;
- Regular communication with stakeholders including Government Departments, agencies, victim groups and individual victims to ensure that lines of communication are clear and that victims receive timely and appropriate advice about Board decisions.

With a new Board and new premises it has not been an easy task to effect the changes necessary to improve our operations. They are still a “work in progress”. What has been achieved would not have happened without the determination and sheer hard work of the Secretariat staff and the members of the Board.

While the legislative changes and Board initiatives have resulted in improvements in operation, the essential function of the Board remains the same. It makes decisions about the conditional release of prisoners into the community with the aim of



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reducing their risk of re-offending and thereby enhancing the safety of the community.

A term of imprisonment is the “last resort” of the criminal justice system, employed when fines or community based options have not deterred an individual offender or where the serious nature of the offences means it is the only option. It is comforting to believe that a term of imprisonment will reduce offending by deterring and rehabilitating offenders.

However the reality of the prison system at present means that many prisoners are unable to access appropriate rehabilitation programs. Prisoners have many problems ranging from mental health, drug dependence, dysfunctional lifestyles and antisocial behaviours and a lack of basic education. It is difficult for rehabilitation programs in prison to be able address these background problems let alone focus on particular offending behaviours. The Board considers that prisoners should have greater access to educational health and rehabilitation treatment courses while in prison and on release under the conditions of parole.

There are a number of prisoners who find it difficult to return to mainstream community life. If prisoners have mental health problems or chronic drug dependence they often need accommodation that can provide some level of support and supervision. Suitable residential facilitates are in very short supply. Long waiting lists place them beyond the reach of many prisoners who either remain in custody or struggle to avoid a return to prison because of a failure to comply with parole conditions.

It is not the function of the Board to conduct a campaign for additional programs and supportive facilities. However, it is part of the reporting duty to draw attention to incorrect assumptions about the availability of programs and resources that underpin its statutory function.

If appropriate pre-release and post release programs and support facilitates are not available, some prisoners will not be able to achieve a safe return to the community. These constraints cannot be disregarded. They affect the Boards’ capacity to fully realise its statutory purpose. But within these constraints the members and staff have shown a dedication and commitment to their difficult task that is cause for much optimism about the ongoing work of the Board.



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Executive Manager's Report

On 28 January 2007, the *Parole and Sentencing Legislation Amendment Bill 2006* was proclaimed and brought into existence the Prisoners Review Board. This new Board replaced the Parole Board of Western Australia and came about in response to the Inquiry into the Management of Offenders in Custody and in the Community 2005 (Mahoney Inquiry). Recommendations from the Mahoney Inquiry included that the new board “should have its own secretariat that is independent of the Department of Corrective Services” and that the “responsible minister for its administration should be the Attorney General”. The Inquiry also recommended that significant improvement was required for resourcing and accountability, including improved communication strategies to assist the public understand the functions of the Prisoners Review Board.

The State Review Boards Secretariat, a branch within the Department of the Attorney General, was subsequently established as the administrative body supporting the functions of the Board. The Secretariat also supports two other boards, being the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board and the Supervised Release Review Board.

The past twelve months have been a challenging period of fundamental change and expansion for the Secretariat. Considerable planning was required to put into place the structures and processes necessary to ensure a successful transition and operation from the Parole Board to the Prisoners Review Board. New accommodation was found, new members recruited and trained, staff from the Department of Corrective Services who dealt with the grant of Auto/CEO parole were transferred and additional staffing positions were created. In line with the requirement to provide appropriate support to the Board the staffing increased from eleven in June 2006 to twenty one approved positions a year later. In this environment, ongoing training and professional development for board members and staff is recognised as an essential part of the strategy to ensure that the Mahoney Inquiry recommendations are fulfilled.

A key challenge for staff over the coming twelve months will be to continue to improve and develop the administrative support structures which enable the Board to provide a quality service to the community. The work has begun with a workflow analysis by an independent consultant which has paved the way for improved work practices and the clear identification of the need for an independent Information Technology system to support the functions of the Board. At present a project is underway to investigate future systems options and provide recommendations to improve business processes and systems usage.

A major innovation this year has been the creation of a website in response to the Mahoney Inquiry recommendation to improve communication strategies. The Chairman is now publishing decisions where it is considered to be in the interests of



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the public to do so and articles are regularly included to educate and inform the public on matters relating to parole and other functions of the Board.

Another innovation has been the introduction of official visits by the Board to regional and metropolitan prisons. So far, the Board has visited all metropolitan prisons and regional prisons in Bunbury, Broome and Roebourne with visits scheduled for Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Albany this financial year. When in a region, Board members meet with local communities, voluntary agencies and businesses who are concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders in the community. This has proven to be a highly successful exercise to demystify the operations of the Board and improve Board members' understanding of local issues.

All of this has required an enormous effort by the Secretariat and much has been achieved over the past year. The challenge is now before us to continue to provide high quality administrative support to enable the Board to function optimally.

I congratulate and thank all of the past and current administrative staff for their work over the past twelve months and I would like to particularly acknowledge the following people for their efforts in bringing the Prisoner Review Board to its operational position today:

Ms Dianne Bateman
Mr Guy Bowra
Ms Sharon-Lee Holland
Mr Lee Bateman
Ms Irene Morgan
Ms Jane Connor
Mr Jim Adair

Also a special acknowledgement and thanks to the Directorate and Sentence Management Unit of the Department of Corrective Services for their support and assistance in managing the transition requirements to establish the new Board with its expanded responsibilities.

The coming year will see a consolidation of the progress made to date in establishing the Prisoners Review Board. I have no doubt that the Secretariat staff will rise to the coming challenges to continue to develop and improve the Board's operations and contribution to our community.

J Snook
A/Executive Manager
State Review Boards Secretariat.



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The Year at a Glance

The performance of the Board's functions.

The number of prisoners who became eligible to be released under a parole order. 2483

The number of prisoners who applied to be released under a re-entry release order. 251

The number of prisoners who were refused an early release order by the Board or the Governor. 682

The number of prisoners released under an early release order by the Board or the Governor. 1937

The number of prisoners who completed an early release order. 492

The number of release orders suspended or cancelled and the reasons for suspension or cancellation. 455

In most cases suspensions or cancellations occur as a result of breaches of parole conditions or re-offending. Where it is a consequence of breach of conditions, they usually involve one or more of the following:

- Fail to attend for urinalysis testing;
- Fail to report for supervision;
- Fail to attend for counselling;
- Continued use of illicit substances;
- Fail to comply with conditions; and
- Fail to attend programs.

The number of prisoners for whom participation in a Re-socialisation program was approved by the Board or the Governor. 4

The number of prisoners who completed Re-socialisation programs 0

The operation of this Act and relevant parts of the Sentencing Act 1995 so far as they relate to early release orders and to the activities of CCOs in relation to those orders during



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the previous financial year:

This requirement appears to be directed to an evaluation on a statistical basis of the operation of early release orders. At this stage the Board does not have access to sufficient statistical data to be able to provide that evaluation.

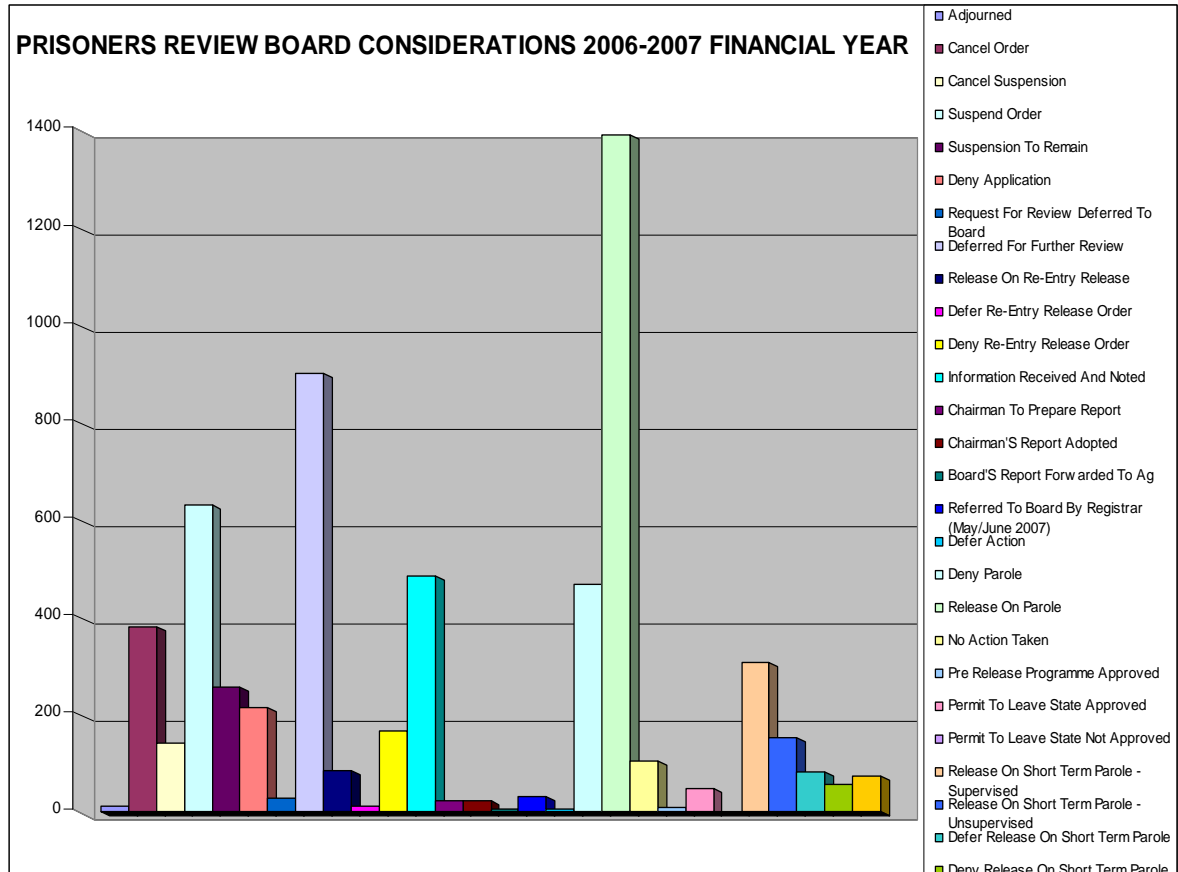
The Board is currently in the process of developing its own data base to address this situation.

TOTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD 2006-2007

Adjourned	12	0.20%
Cancel Order	380	6.23%
Cancel Suspension	141	2.31%
Suspend Order	631	10.34%
Suspension To Remain	258	4.23%
Deny Application	214	3.51%
Request For Review Deferred To Board	28	0.46%
Deferred For Further Review	900	14.75%
Release On Re-Entry Release	86	1.41%
Defer Re-Entry Release Order	12	0.20%
Deny Re-Entry Release Order	166	2.72%
Information Received And Noted	486	7.96%
Chairman To Prepare Report	22	0.36%
Chairman's Report Adopted	23	0.38%
Boards Report Forwarded To Ag	7	0.11%
Referred To Board By Registrar (May/June 2007)	32	0.52%
Defer Action	6	0.10%
Deny Parole	469	7.69%
Release On Parole	1390	22.78%
No Action Taken	104	1.70%
Pre Release Programme Approved	9	0.15%
Permit To Leave State Approved	49	0.80%
Permit To Leave State Not Approved	2	0.03%
Release On Short Term Parole - Supervised	308	5.05%
Release On Short Term Parole - Unsupervised	152	2.49%
Defer Release On Short Term Parole	83	1.36%
Deny Release On Short Term Parole	57	0.93%
Vary Release Details	75	1.23%
TOTAL CONSIDERATIONS	6102	100.00%



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Prison Visits

Section 5 of Schedule 1 of the Sentence Administration Act 2003, Provisions applying to the Prisoners Review Board states:

- The chairperson is to decide when and where the Board meets.
- The Board, constituted in accordance with this clause, may meet and perform its functions even if and at the same time the Board, constituted in accordance with this clause but by different individuals, is also meeting and performing the Board's functions.

When taken in conjunction with the recommendations of the Inquiry into Offenders in Custody and in the Community, the chairman indicated that it was desirable to hold meetings at each of the State's Adult Custodial facilities.

Following negotiation with the Department of Corrective Services, a schedule of visits was developed.



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It is established that each of the Regional Prisons, of which there are six, will receive one visit a year whilst the seven metropolitan prisons will be visited every two months.

The Board commenced these meetings with the first sitting being held at Acacia Prison on 19 March 2007.

Although the Board has for some time conducted video interviews, it had assumed that there were benefits to be gained where a prisoner is able to address the Board directly.

This has clearly been demonstrated with the prisoners being able to speak directly to the Board about their rehabilitation and commitment to adopting a law abiding lifestyle.

The Board has also been able to look at the impact of custody and treatment intervention on attitude and behaviour and what progress the prisoner had made in any educational or vocational training they had undertaken.

As well as hearing applications, the Board in visiting prisons has been able to interact directly with staff at each of the facilities where it is able to address issues of general operation and process.

Visits to the Board

The Board has received a number of visitors since the beginning of 2007.

Although the Board's meetings are not conducted in public because of its processes the Board in its commitment to greater transparency of operation encourages visitors and observers. These attendances are subject to confidentiality agreements.

This approach has been warmly received by students and justice stakeholders, in particular enabling them to gain a clear understanding of the Board's role and responsibilities in the sentencing processes.

On 29 March this year the Board was delighted to host a visit from Sir Anthony Hughes, a Judge of the United Kingdom Appeal Court, who had been visiting Western Australia on a study leave.

Sir Anthony commented that although the West Australian parole system differs from that in the United Kingdom, the problems the Board encounters in deciding difficult issues relating to parole release are universal.



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The Board appreciated the opportunity to discuss with Sir Anthony the increased community interest in the parole process and the impact of human rights legislation in the United Kingdom.



Photo details Board sitting 29 March 2007.

(Left to Right) Sir Anthony Hughes (Judge UK Appeal Court), Judge Valerie French (Chairman, Prisoners Review Board), Superintendent Richard Lane (Police representative), Denzil McCotter (deputy chairperson, Prisoners Review Board), Merrilee Garnett (community member, Prisoners Review Board) and Ivan Sarich (Departmental representative, Prisoners Review Board).

Regional Visits

In conjunction with its commitment to prison visits, previously mentioned, the Board in its first year of operation will visit each regional prison at least once. As part of this commitment the Board meets with as many regional government agencies and community groups as is possible within time and budgetary restraints.

Its first visit in March of 2007 was to Broome Regional Prison.

Three prisoners appeared in person before the Board. Two cases were reviews of suspension and one was a review of a Board decision.

As a result of deliberations two prisoners were released on parole whilst the third was denied parole.



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The Board also addressed the majority of prisoners in Broome at a meeting held in the prison canteen.



Chairman Judge French addresses prisoners at Broome Regional Prison.

(From left to right) Judge French, Barbara Hostalek (community member) and Georgia Prideaux (community member).

It was encouraging to see the voluntary participation of the prisoners. There was keen interest in obtaining information about how the Board functions and what matters are taken into account in reaching decisions about release on parole.

Following this meeting and a discussion with prison staff, the Board developed an information package for prisoners addressing many areas with a particular emphasis on a viable parole plan.



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This is considered a key factor in release to parole when rehabilitation programs are not available in remote localities.



Board and prison staff in garden at Broome Regional Prison.

(left to right) Back Row - Leanne Killen (AIPR writer), Kerri Bishop (Assistant Superintendent), Judge French (Chairman, PRB), Georgia Prideaux (community member, PRB), Phil Coombes-Pearce (Superintendent), Ivan Sarich (Departmental representative, PRB) and front row - Barbara Hostalek (community member, PRB)

Other organisations visited by the Board whilst in Broome included Outreach, Milliya Rumarra, (a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre) and Community Justice Services.

The Board also met informally with the Superintendent of Broome Regional Prison, Broome Magistrate and the then Regional Manager, Kimberley/Pilbara Region, (Magistrates Court and Tribunal Services).

The Board found encouraging the candid approach of all in the region who found the time to discuss the problems they face in delivering their services in such a vast and remote locality.

The Board acknowledges the difficulties that are faced in developing support networks, given the vast distances and lack of resources, for prisoners being considered for release back to remote communities.



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Community Relationships

With the appointment of a full-time chairman and the allocation of appropriate resources, one of the Board's main objectives for the year has been to address the marketing of the legislative responsibilities with 'the justice system', and the general community providing an informed perspective about the roles of the different Boards and the Secretariat.

It is recognised in an undertaking of this nature that to isolate the Prisoners Review Board from the other two Boards (Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board and the Supervised Release Review Board) would be inappropriate as it is the very independence of the three Boards separated by legislation which cause much confusion in the community in the exercise of their responsibilities.

Through the first half of 2007, the Chairman of the Board has conducted a series of speaking engagements addressing:

- various community based organisations such as Lions and the Royal Association of Justices of the Peace;
- victims groups as well as the Government convened Victims of Crime Reference group;
- university law faculties;
- prisoner support groups such as Outcare and Aboriginal Visitors Scheme; and
- legal bodies amongst which were Legal Aid.

This has been supported with the Registrar of the Board visiting Community Justice Services offices and the Chairman and Executive Manager meeting with various members of the Department of Corrective Services management team.

Website

The Mahoney Inquiry report of November 2005, recommendation 41(ii) and (v) said,

A Parole Board should be maintained but will require significant improvement to its:

- Legislation, particularly in relation to its ability to inform the public of its decisions and to extend its membership if considered important for public confidence; and
- Communication with the public to improve understanding of its functions.



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Section 107C (2) of the Sentence Administration Act 2003 (the Act) states:

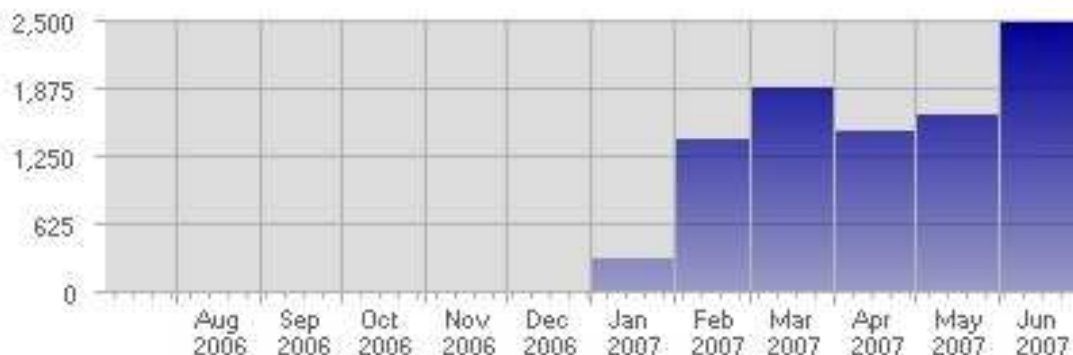
- The chairperson of the Board may make public a decision of the Board or the reasons for it if the chairperson considers it is in the public interest to do having regard to all the circumstances including the interest of the prisoner concerned and the interest of any victim.

To accommodate both the recommendations and the provisions of section 107C (2) of the Act, a website has been developed (www.prisonersreviewboard.wa.gov.au).

This site has been a useful tool in informing the public of Board policies, decisions and matters of public interest.

It should be noted that the website came on line on 28 January 2007 being the date of proclamation of the Sentence Administration Act 2003.

The following depicts the number of times per month the website has been accessed.



Aboriginal Issues

The high number of Aboriginal prisoners continues to present problems to the Prisoners Review Board. In the 2005 and 2006 Annual Report, the following concerns were noted:

- Aboriginal prisoners do not move through the prison system to the same extent as non-Aboriginal prisoners and they tend to endure the worst prison conditions.
- Re-entry issues for Aboriginal prisoners, including getting home after their imprisonment has ended are more acute than for non-Aboriginal processes.
- Lack of detailed evaluations in core areas (including treatment programs).



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- The need to consider new forms of program development rather than attempting a peripheral *ex post facto* “indigenisation” of generic programs.
- Program delivery has been poor over a sustained period in some prisons, especially in regional prisons.
- Many Aboriginal prisoners live in remote areas and are unable to access community rehabilitation treatment programs.
- Many Aboriginal prisoners are unable to be released on parole because of lack of suitable accommodation.

In the last national census taken at 30/06/2006 the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that in Western Australia Indigenous persons were 18 times more likely to be in prison than non- Indigenous persons.

Those issues therefore, that the Parole Board has highlighted in previous years, seem to be as relevant today.

Programs

The Prisoners Review Board repeats the concern made by the Parole Board in its Annual Reports of 2005 and 2006 about the lack of availability of programs in several prisons and notes that:-

- Prisoners in regional prisons can often only access programs if they are transferred to other locations.
- The transfer of prisoners to another prison often means that they are further removed from their families and Communities.
- Prisoners in protection units and those serving short sentences are particularly disadvantaged by the lack of available programs.
- The Board reiterates it is concerned that there are currently not enough programs in regional areas, which are Aboriginal “specific”. It is encouraging that some Aboriginal specific programs are being developed within regional prisons. However more work needs to be done in this area.
- In regional prisons, there is a significant shortage of officers who can make assessments and facilitate programs for prisoners.
- Women prisoners at Bandyup Prison and regional prisons also appear significantly disadvantaged in terms of program access.

It is apparent that there has yet again been a marked decrease in the availability of custodial rehabilitation treatment programs.



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The Board understands that this is not simply a matter of too many prisoners and not enough resources to fund programs.

As a result of policy changes in the delivery of programs, there is a critical shortage of properly trained facilitators to conduct the programs.

Vital programs for violent offending, domestic violence and substance abuse are cancelled or postponed because of this shortage. This means that in some cases a prisoner's release on parole is denied or deferred to enable them to complete a program.

In cases where the Board considers that the prisoner does not pose an unacceptable risk to the community the prisoner is released to complete a similar program in the community as a condition of parole.

The Board is conscious of the increase in prison numbers this causes and the growing frustration amongst prisoners when their parole is denied or delayed because of the unavailability of rehabilitation programs.

The Board acknowledges that problems are less acute in the community although there are problems in rural and remote areas of the State.

The Board reiterates its concern which was expressed in its Annual Reports of 2004, 2005 and 2006 that many of the prison-based treatment programs have not been subject to systematic evaluation in terms of their impact on recidivism or other measures of effectiveness.

Victim Issues

Victims of crimes registered on the Victims Notification Register, where an individual prisoner is subject to the parole process, want to receive detailed and timely information about how and when crucial decisions, leading to possible release, will be taken and the means by which their views will be taken into consideration. They need to know their views will be taken seriously and that their comments will be kept confidential.

Amendments to the Sentence Administration Act 2003 require that at least one member of the Board shall have a knowledge and understanding of the impact of offences on victims.

The Prisoners Review Board is committed to providing effective and relevant advice to victims of crime about the decisions made in relation to the release of offenders on parole orders.



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The advice and resulting communication is generally conducted through the victim agencies, Victim Mediation Unit and Victim Notification Register, although submissions can be sent directly to the Board.

The Board does stress the need for flexibility and cooperation between the Board and the agencies in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for victims.

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Others Involved: Jane Connor, Dianne Bateman, Lee Bateman
Origin: Magistrates Court

ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRISONERS REVIEW BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

In accordance with Section 112 of the *Sentence Administration Act 2003*, submitted on behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Prisoners Review Board, is the Annual Report of the Board, for the twelve month period ending 30 June 2007.

Alistair Borg
A/EXECUTIVE MANAGER
STATE REVIEW BOARDS SECRETARIAT
COURT AND TRIBUNAL SERVICES

19 September 2007