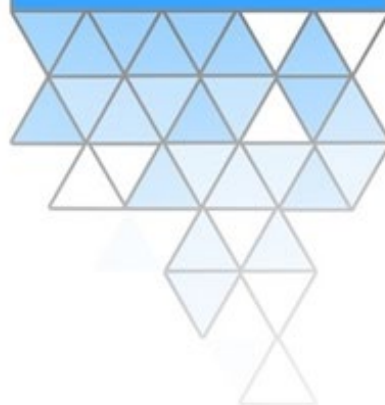
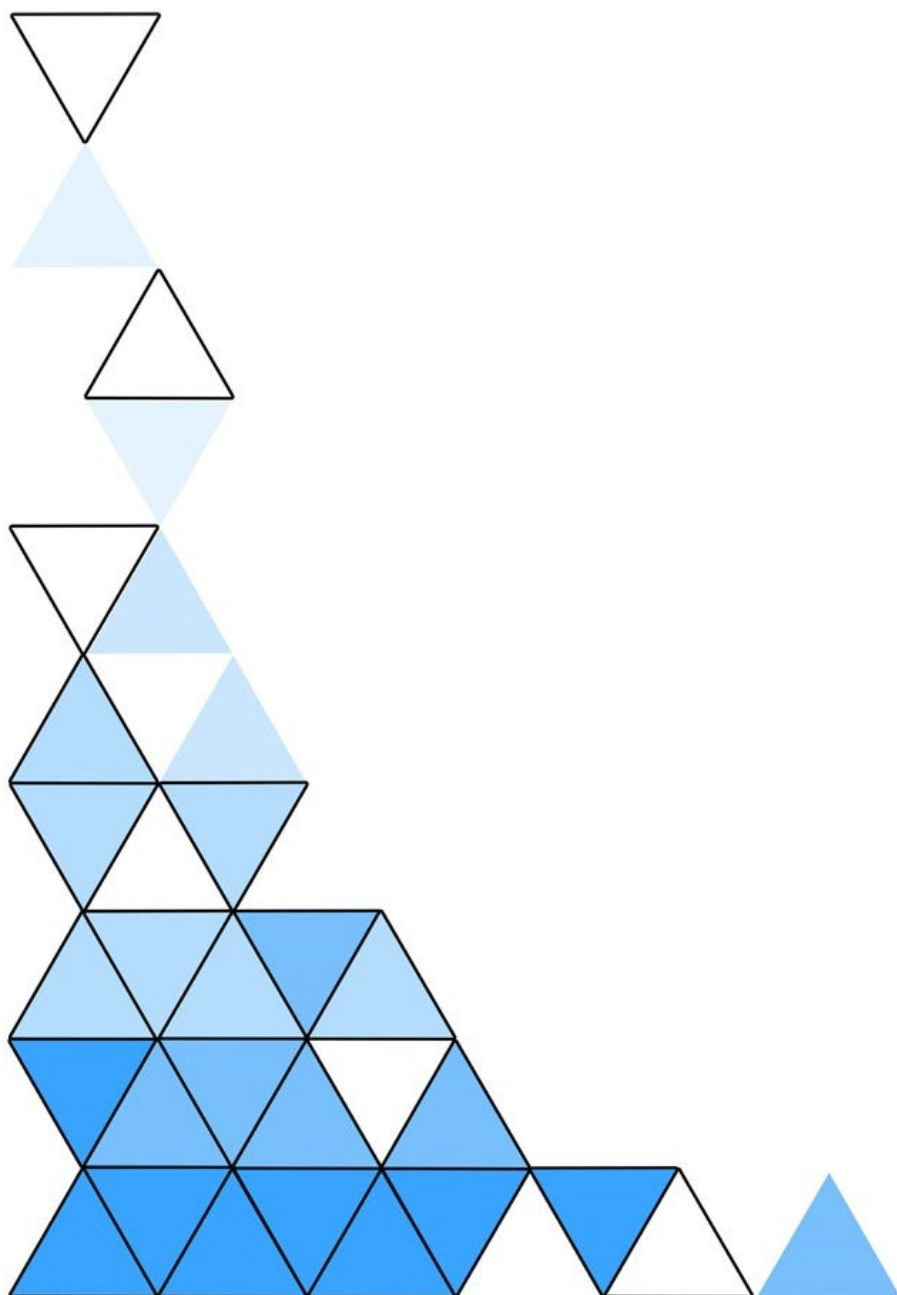
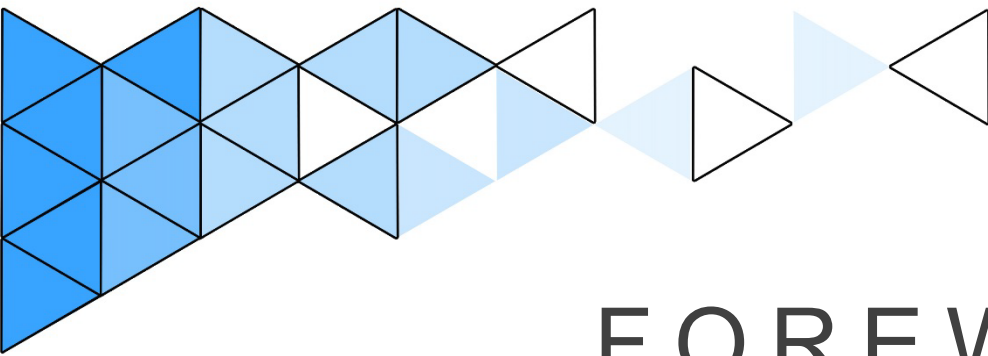




PRISONERS
REVIEW
BOARD

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023/24





FOREWORD

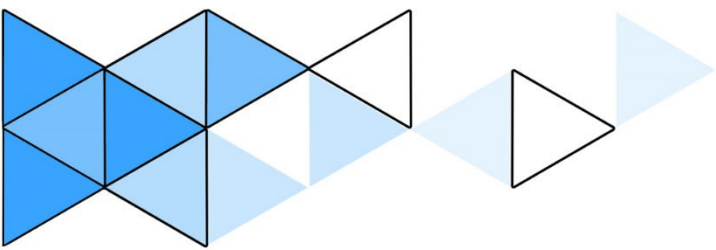
THE HON. JOHN ROBERT QUIGLEY LLB JP MLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

To the Attorney General,
The Hon. John Robert Quigley LLB JP MLA

In accordance with section 112 of the *Sentence Administration Act 2003 (WA)*, I present to you the Annual Report of the Prisoners Review Board for the year ending 30 June 2024.

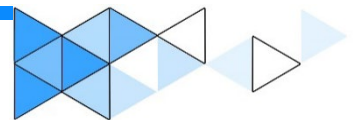
The Honourable Jeremy Curthoys
Chairperson
Prisoners Review Board

September 2024



CHAIRPERSON'S OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION



I am pleased to present the annual report of the Prisoners Review Board (the Board) for the reporting period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The Board determines whether prisoners who were determined by the sentencing judge or magistrate to be eligible for parole should be released on parole and if so, on what conditions.

A large number of factors are taken into account by the Board in making the determination in accordance with the requirements of the *Sentence Administration Act 2003* (WA). The paramount consideration for the Board is the safety of the community.

Preparation for the Board meetings, at which the determinations are made, requires a large amount of reading and a careful consideration of the various factors.

The tragic death of Ms Georgia Lyall in the context of intimate partner homicide received widespread media publicity and understandable outrage within the community. This has led to an increased focus on addressing family and domestic violence broadly within the community. The number of cases where the

offender has committed acts of family and domestic violence or has acts of criminal violence in his/her criminal history is particularly concerning.

In 2024, increased victim representation on the Board will be achieved through the appointment of Victim Representatives from the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime. These Victim Representatives will have expertise in family and domestic violence and will attend and participate as Board members in meetings of the Board.

The Board has undertaken a training session on family and domestic violence so far this year and it will be a continuing focus of training for the Board members.

The number of cancellations and suspensions of parole have increased this financial year. This is indicative that more parolees are breaching parole, although it is difficult to know why this is happening. Given the effort required to make parole applications it is difficult to know why that effort is wasted, or liable to be wasted, by parolees.

In general, it is preferable that prisoners are supervised on release on parole rather than serving their full term and being released without supervision, so long as they can be released having regard to the safety of the community.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Board who work tirelessly to discharge a substantial workload and the dedicated support staff provided by the Department of Justice. The members of the Board are always thoroughly prepared for the Board meetings ensuring that the applicants for parole receive a detailed and thorough consideration. The Board's task is supported by the great work done by the administrative staff.

I also take the opportunity to acknowledge the dedicated work performed by Adult Community Corrections staff, prison staff, the Western Australia Police Force, the Officers of the Victim-offender Mediation Unit and those in Non-Governmental Organisations who provide assistance and support services to offenders both in custody and in the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeremy Curthoys', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Jeremy Curthoys
Chairperson
Prisoners Review Board

September 2024

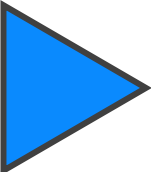


STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 112 OF THE ACT, THE BOARD IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE MINISTER WITH A WRITTEN REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:



A SNAPSHOT OF FACTS

- 
- a. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BOARD'S FUNCTIONS DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

During 2023/24 the Board held 589 meetings (including Registrar meetings) and considered 6392 matters. The number of meetings convened and the number of cases considered in the 2023/24 financial year is comparable to the previous financial year.

FINANCIAL YEAR	CASES CONSIDERED	NO. OF BOARD MEETINGS
2023/24	6392	589
2022/23	6334	599
2021/22	6725	591
2020/21	7122	602

“Cases Considered” includes all matters listed before the Board including listings in relation to the administration of Parole Orders. Individual prisoners can have more than one listing over a 12 month period.

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
--	----------------	----------------	-------------------

PAROLE ORDERS MADE BY THE BOARD AND GOVERNOR	1398	1189	14.9% ↓
PAROLE ORDERS CANCELLED OR SUSPENDED	265	285	7.5% ↑
PAROLE APPLICATIONS DENIED BY THE BOARD AND GOVERNOR	1064	1489	39.9% ↑
PAROLE CONSIDERATION DENIED AT REQUEST OF PRISONER	579	602	4.0% ↑
TOTAL PAROLE APPLICATIONS DENIED BY THE BOARD AND GOVERNOR	1643	2091	27.3% ↑

The total number of parole applications denied by the Board has been broken down to delineate between where prisoners have denied their own parole and where parole has been denied by either the Board or the Governor.

- b. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO BECAME ELIGIBLE TO BE RELEASED UNDER A PAROLE ORDER DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL NUMBER	2111	2266	7.3% ↑

A prisoner's eligibility for parole is determined by the Court as part of their sentence.

- c. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO APPLIED TO BE RELEASED UNDER A RE-ENTRY RELEASE ORDER DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL NUMBER	1	3	200% ↑

Prior to 2007, prisoners eligible for parole could also apply for early release under a Re-entry Release Order, pursuant to Part 4 of the Act. Those prisoners sentenced after 2007 may only be released via a Re-Entry Release Order if the sentencing Court determined not to make an order that an offender was eligible for parole.

d. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO WERE REFUSED AN EARLY RELEASE ORDER BY THE BOARD OR THE GOVERNOR DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL	1546	1941	25.5% ↑

e. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS RELEASED UNDER AN EARLY RELEASE ORDER BY THE BOARD OR THE GOVERNOR DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL	1398	1189	14.9% ↓

BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL PRISONERS RELEASED UNDER AN EARLY RELEASE ORDER:

ea. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHOSE COOPERATION WAS CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 66B(1)(a) DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

66b1 = Board not to release or recommend release unless prisoner cooperates or victim's remains located

(1) *The Board must not make a release decision, or take release action, in relation to a relevant prisoner in custody for a homicide offence or homicide related offence unless the Board is satisfied that —*

(a) the prisoner has cooperated with a member of the Police Force in the identification of the location, or last known location, of the remains of the victim of the homicide offence; or

(b) a member of the Police Force knows the location of the remains of the victim of the homicide offence.

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL	0	2	200% ↑

eb. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH (EA) WHO WERE RELEASED UNDER AN EARLY RELEASE ORDER BY THE BOARD OR THE GOVERNOR DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR:

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL	0	0	0%

f. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO COMPLETED AN EARLY RELEASE ORDER DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL	1050	905	13.8% ↓

“Completed” means the prisoner’s Parole Order was neither suspended nor cancelled during the parole period.

SUSPENSION & CANCELLATION OF PAROLE ORDERS IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

g. THE NUMBER OF EARLY RELEASE ORDERS SUSPENDED OR CANCELLED DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR AND THE REASONS FOR SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION¹;

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
PAROLE ORDERS CANCELLED	255	269	5.5% ↑
PAROLE ORDERS SUSPENDED	10	16	60% ↑
TOTAL	265	285	

¹ Decisions to suspend/cancel parole should not be compared to the number of prisoners released on parole for the same reporting period as the decision to suspend/cancel can relate to an offender who was granted parole in a previous reporting period. Figures reflect decisions of the Board and do not include Adult Community Corrections decisions to suspend parole.

ga. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO WERE THE SUBJECT OF A REPORT UNDER SECTION 74C OF THE *SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION ACT 2003* (WA):

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL	676	678	0.3% ↑

gb. THE NUMBER OF PERSONS RELEASED SUBJECT TO PSSO'S DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR.

	2022/23	2023/24	CHANGE (%)
TOTAL	99	151	52.5% ↑

h. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS FOR WHOM PARTICIPATION IN A RE-SOCIALISATION PROGRAMME WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OR THE GOVERNOR DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

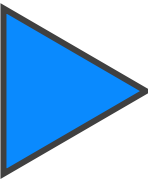
	2022/23	2023/24
TOTAL	13	11

A re-socialisation programme is designed to allow long term prisoners the opportunity to be gradually reintegrated into the community in preparation for release from prison. The purpose of a re-socialisation programme is to equip a prisoner for re-entry into the general community by addressing their education, employment, family and community support networks. The aim is to improve the prisoner's ability to pursue and maintain a pro-social and law-abiding lifestyle.

i. THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO COMPLETED RE-SOCIALISATION PROGRAMMES DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

	2022/23	2023/24
TOTAL	4	10

Re-socialisation programmes can run for varying durations of time, from six months to two years and can encompass multiple stages. As such, not all re-socialisation programmes commenced in a financial period will end in that same financial period.



- j. THE OPERATION OF THIS ACT AND RELEVANT PARTS OF THE *SENTENCING ACT 1995* SO FAR AS THEY RELATE TO EARLY RELEASE ORDERS AND PSSOS AND TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CCOS IN RELATION TO THOSE ORDERS DURING THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR;

See “Chairperson’s Overview”.



BOARD REMUNERATION

Information relating to the remuneration of Board Members this year is contained with the Annual Report of the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice provides administrative support to the Board and is responsible for remunerating Board Members where such payment is incurred.

