

Response to Queensland Parole System Review recommendations

Message from the Queensland Government

Ensuring safe communities is a core objective of the Queensland Government. The Government is committed to meeting Queenslanders' expectations that they and their families should feel secure in their homes and in public. The public should have confidence that the State has a criminal justice system that is fair and just, and also robust in its protection of the public from crime.

The effective rehabilitation, reintegration and supervision of prisoners released into the community is an important component of the criminal justice system, and is crucial in reducing the risk of re-offending by those under supervision. The report by Mr Walter Sofronoff QC is a comprehensive and considered review of the parole system in Queensland. Its recommendations provide a clear path towards reform, underpinned by the Government's core objective of ensuring safe communities.

The report provides an opportunity to reshape and improve the parole system in Queensland through long-lasting changes to the management and rehabilitation of prisoners and offenders generally. The Government appreciates the significance of the opportunity and accordingly support or supports in principle the majority of recommendations, with some requiring further consideration and consultation.

We recognise that improvements to the parole system can improve Queenslanders' safety and offer real rehabilitation to people who have offended against their community. When a person is sentenced to a term of imprisonment, they should have the opportunity to take part in rehabilitation programs while they are in custody and during any period of parole that they may serve in the community. That way, they are given every chance to become a contributing member of their community.

Past experience has shown that imprisonment will always be required for people whose offences are of a nature that prison is the only appropriate form of punishment. However, evidence also shows that imprisonment for people under supervision on parole and in breach of their order is rarely effective. Short-term imprisonment tends to disrupt their access to programs designed to support reintegration and reduce re-offending, such as housing, employment and supportive relationships. Experts agree that it is counter-productive to churn parolees in and out of the prison system for minor violations.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring the Probation and Parole Service provides a greater range of supervision options to enable offenders to address their behaviour while being appropriately monitored and managed in the community. As part of a more contemporary parole system that meets community expectations, the Government aims to establish a prioritisation process for prisoners to ensure they receive appropriate rehabilitation while in custody and, importantly, are appropriately supervised on release.

When we came to government, we inherited a prison system that was overcrowded with the growth in prisoner numbers compromising the ability to effectively rehabilitate prisoners. This is likely contributing to the increase in the rate of prisoners returning to prison within two years of their release. Without appropriate rehabilitation, a prisoner will have difficulties with changing their behaviour upon release from custody. Through the implementation of the recommendations made by Mr Sofronoff, the Government will be best placed to address the imbalance between punishment and rehabilitation in the criminal justice system.

In Queensland, the provision of corrective services costs approximately \$800 million a year. As Queensland's population continues to grow it is unlikely that this expenditure will decrease. However, it is important that the cost to Queenslanders does not continue to escalate. While the financial cost of delivering corrective services in Queensland is high, the cost of crime to the community, both financially and socially, is far greater.

Increasing rehabilitation services and strengthening probation and parole enhances community safety and reduces government expenditure on prisons and the cost of crime to the community. The sweeping reforms to the parole system planned by the Palaszczuk Government will likely achieve savings in the long term.

Our first priorities towards achieving a more contemporary and effective probation and parole system that meets community expectations in Queensland are to:

- expand the Capricornia Correctional Centre, which will ease prison overcrowding and generate more jobs in central Queensland, with the managing contractor appointed and early site works to commence by November 2017
- reinstate the Drug Court in Brisbane by the end of 2017
- introduce legislation in early 2017 to establish a new, independent, professional parole board

- appoint a parole board president-designate to guide establishment of the new parole board, secretariat and work processes for the board
- introduce “no body, no parole” legislation during 2017
- expand the use of GPS technology to monitor parolees across Queensland, commencing in high risk locations such as Townsville and the Gold Coast
- expand rehabilitation, drug and alcohol and mental health treatment services in prison
- expand opioid substitution treatment across Queensland prisons, starting in North Queensland.,
- expand re-entry services, targeting female prisoners.
- strengthened end to end case management and improved management of offenders in the community by providing up to 243 additional and better trained probation and parole officers over the next four years.
- expand prison mental health services provided to prisoners with more complex and severe mental health needs.

A more contemporary parole system and robust and resilient probation and parole services requires a long-term strategy to effect change, rather than a reliance on short-term solutions. The Palaszczuk Government will develop a long-term plan to implement the report’s recommendations with the exception of two recommendations.

Recommendation 7 seeks to give sentencing judges the discretion to depart from mandatory non-parole periods. In Queensland, mandatory non-parole periods apply to a range of serious violent offences such as murder and unlawful striking causing death. The Palaszczuk Government’s key priority is to build a robust probation and parole system while keeping community safety as our top priority. In our view the potential risk to community safety by implementing Recommendation 7 outweighs the benefits it could bring to the new parole system and as such, it is not intended to remove mandatory non-parole periods at this point in time.

Recommendation 58 of the report poses similar risks to community safety. The recommendation seeks a review of the policy restricting placement of sexual offenders and prisoners convicted of murder or serious violent offences with a view to reintroducing appropriate candidates to low security facilities. Even if it can be argued that some such prisoners constitute a relative low risk to community safety, the possibility of an escape by an offender in a low security program undermines the community’s confidence in our system. This recommendation cannot be supported at this point in time.

The Palaszczuk Government’s vision is to deliver a world-class probation and parole system, one that effectively manages, supervises and rehabilitates offenders both while in custody and when released on parole into the community. Led by a properly-resourced, professional and independent parole board, such a system will lessen the likelihood of re-offending by parolees, thereby enhancing community safety.

A robust and resilient probation and parole system is crucial to Queensland’s criminal justice system. Importantly, our planned reforms reaffirm our election commitment to keep Queenslanders safe and create stronger communities, socially and economically, into the future.

Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP

Premier and Minister for the Arts



Hon Yvette D’Ath MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills



Hon Mark Ryan MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services



Response to Queensland Parole System Review recommendations

This table provides a line-by-line response to the specific recommendations made by the Queensland Parole System Review.

No.	Recommendation	Response
1	The Government should commission a review of the parole system in Queensland in five years.	Supported The Queensland Government will review the parole system in five years.
Legislative Framework and Sentencing		
2	Court ordered parole should be retained.	Supported - Completed The Queensland Government will retain court ordered parole.
3	A Court should have the discretion to set a parole release date or a parole eligibility date for sentences of greater than three years where the offender has served a period of time on remand and the Court considers that the appropriate further period in custody before parole should be no more than 12 months from the date of sentence.	Supported in principle The Queensland Government will have the Sentencing Advisory Council undertake a review of sentencing options, and consider this recommendation as part of that review.
4	A suitable entity, such as the Sentencing Advisory Council, should undertake a review into sentencing options and in particular, community based orders to advise the Government of any necessary changes to sentencing options.	Supported The Queensland Government will have the Sentencing Advisory Council undertake a review of sentencing options, and consider this recommendation as part of that review.
5	Court ordered parole should apply to a sentence imposed for a sexual offence.	Supported in principle The Queensland Government supports this recommendation in principle noting that currently many sexual offenders are released onto a non-custodial order or no supervision. Including sexual offenders in the Court Ordered parole regime will increase the number of stringent conditions which may be placed to sexual offenders, allowing for stronger and more robust supervision.
6	The minimum 80 per cent mandatory non-parole period under the <i>Drugs Misuse Act 1986</i> (Qld) should be removed (on the assumption that the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation	Supported – Completed This recommendation was completed following the assent of the <i>Serious and Organised</i>

	Amendment Bill 2016, which provides for that to occur, has not yet been passed).	<i>Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016</i> on 9 December 2016.
7	Where a sentence is to be imposed for an offence that presently carries a mandatory non-parole period, the sentencing judge should have the discretion to depart from that mandatory period.	Not supported Currently mandatory non-parole periods apply to convictions for serious offences such as murder, a second eligible sexual offence under the 'Two Strikes' regime and unlawful striking causing death. Queensland Government does not intend to deviate from mandatory non-parole periods for such serious offences at this time.
Assessment and Management of Offenders		
8	The risk and need assessments used in Queensland Corrective Services, in the custodial and Probation and Parole setting, should be replaced with a validated assessment.	Supported The Queensland Government will replace the risk and need assessments with a validated tool.
9	The assessment to be used by Queensland Corrective Services should be implemented after external expert advice is sought regarding the appropriate tool for this jurisdiction.	Supported The Queensland Government will seek external expert advice to develop a validated tool.
10	Any expert review of assessment tools must include consideration of the appropriate role for actuarial risk and need assessment to inform and guide parole board decision making.	Supported
11	A body should be established and appropriately resourced to evaluate the risk assessments, training and interventions used by Queensland Corrective Services.	Supported The Queensland Government will establish a body to evaluate risk assessments, training and interventions used by Queensland Corrective Services. Consideration will be given to including this body within the dedicated Research Unit within QCS as per recommendation 23.
12	Queensland Corrective Services should implement a dedicated case management system that begins assessing and preparing a prisoner for parole at the time of entry into custody and should consider utilising a model whereby a dedicated Assessment and Parole Unit is embedded in each correctional centre.	Supported The Queensland Government sees benefit in implementing a dedicated case management system.
13	Queensland Corrective Services should alter the application process for parole to limit the written material required to be produced unassisted by a prisoner.	Supported The Queensland Government will implement a new parole application process.

14	Queensland Corrective Services should abandon its current process of parole assessment and the parole panel in favour of a case management process that includes assessment by a Probation and Parole assessment officer using a formal assessment tool and structured professional judgment.	Supported The Queensland Government will implement a new parole application process.
15	Queensland Corrective Services should implement a system so that the case manager from Probation and Parole who is to manage a prisoner on parole begins contact with, and involvement in the management of the prisoner, before he or she is released from custody.	Supported The Queensland Government will implement a new parole release process.
16	Queensland Corrective Services should provide for continuity of case management for offenders returned to custody on parole suspension.	Supported The Queensland Government will implement a new process for parolees returned to custody.
Rehabilitation Programs, Mental Health and Substance Misuse Treatment		
17	Queensland Corrective Services should increase the number and diversity of rehabilitation programs, and training and education opportunities, available to prisoners in custody, including short term programs.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners. As part of a detailed implementation plan, increased rehabilitation opportunities will be rolled out over the next 4 years.
18	Queensland Corrective Services should deliver a greater variety of rehabilitation programs to address the specific and complex needs of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners and offenders and increase the availability of those programs.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and offenders.
19	To provide equitable access to rehabilitation for prisoners and offenders, including short term prisoners, Queensland Corrective Services should develop and increase rehabilitation program delivery in partnership with non-governmental service providers.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and offenders.
20	As a significant component of end-to-end case management, Queensland Corrective Services should increase the delivery of accredited programs to offenders supervised by the Probation and Parole Service, particularly in light of the issues associated with delivering programs in custody.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and offenders.
21	Queensland Corrective Services should have all rehabilitation programs that it offers evaluated to ensure that they are effective in reducing reoffending as intended.	Supported The Queensland Government will have the rehabilitation programs used by Queensland Corrective Services independently evaluated.

22	Queensland Corrective Services should ensure that an independent researcher or body undertakes or is involved in undertaking that evaluation, and undertakes regular re-evaluations of the programs, with the results of each evaluation to be publicly available.	Supported See 21.
23	Queensland Corrective Services should re-establish a dedicated research unit.	Supported A dedicated research unit will be re-established within QCS.
24	In response to the increased demand for mental health services, in line with the significant increases in prisoner and offender numbers across the State, the Queensland Government should review the resourcing of prison and community forensic mental health services.	Supported A review of the resourcing of prison and community forensic mental health services will be undertaken.
25	The resourcing and provision of mental health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and women in the correctional system should be reviewed by Government.	Supported The Queensland Government will review the resourcing and provision of mental health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders.
26	Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland Health should jointly develop a plan for the administration of a screening assessment for all prisoners on admission to prioritise substance misuse rehabilitation, especially for those prisoners with short sentences.	Supported The Queensland Government will develop a plan for the administration of a screening assessment to prioritise substance misuse rehabilitation.
27	Queensland Corrective Services should increase delivery and should develop new rehabilitation programs specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and offenders.
28	Queensland Corrective Services should provide substance misuse rehabilitation to all prisoners and offenders as required in accordance with their assessed risk and need.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and offenders.
29	Queensland Corrective Services should increase the number of high intensity substance misuse programs available to prisoners.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners and offenders.
30	The Government should consider whether it would be appropriate to implement a brokerage model like COATS, to address the significant treatment service gaps for offenders in the community.	Supported The Queensland Government will consider implementing a brokerage model like COATS for offenders.
31	Insofar as it is necessary for a further recommendation to be made about this matter, Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland Health should together introduce	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce an opioid substitution treatment program in all prisons.

	an opioid substitution treatment program into all Queensland prisons.	
Re-Entry Services		
32	The Government should undertake a short-term evaluation of Queensland Corrective Services redesigned re-entry service after 12 months of implementation, with a further review prior to the contract renewal period.	Supported in principle The Queensland Government will evaluate the re-entry service after two years.
33	Queensland Corrective Services should expand its re-entry services to ensure that all prisoners have access to the services, including specialty services to assist remandees and short sentenced prisoners.	Supported The Queensland Government will expand re-entry services for prisoners.
34	An intergovernmental taskforce, with representation from the Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Corrective Services and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, should be established to examine the issue of the availability of suitable long-term accommodation for prisoners and parolees.	Supported The Queensland Government will establish an interdepartmental taskforce to examine long-term accommodation options for prisoners and parolees.
Parole Board		
35	There should be only one Parole Board in Queensland that hears all applications for board ordered parole.	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce one parole board to consider all parole applications.
36	The positions of President and Deputy President of the Parole Board should each be full-time positions filled by a retired judge of a State or Federal Court.	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce legislation so that the President and Deputy President positions may be held by a current or retired Judge of a State or Federal Court, or a person of equivalent standing.
37	There should be a legislative requirement for at least two full-time equivalent professional member positions on the Parole Board.	Supported The Queensland Government will amend legislation to require that there are at least two full-time professional members of the parole board.
38	The number of full-time equivalent professional member positions should be reviewed from time to time on advice from the President of the Parole Board.	Supported The Queensland Government will review the makeup of the parole board from time to time
39	The legislation should require that at least one professional member of the Board be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.	Supported The Queensland Government will amend legislation to ensure representation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people on the parole board.

40	The legislation should provide for community members of the Parole Board in such number as the Governor appoints from time to time.	Supported The Queensland Government will amend legislation to provide for sufficient numbers of community parole board members.
41	In nominating community members for appointment, the Minister should consult with the President of the Parole Board and give consideration to, amongst other things, ensuring representation of women on the board, representation from diverse cultural backgrounds and ensuring representation of community members from throughout Queensland.	Supported The Queensland Government will ensure an appropriate representation of women and people from diverse cultural backgrounds as community members on the parole board.
42	A large proportion of community members should be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Supported The Queensland Government will ensure an appropriate proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are on the parole board.
43	Community members of the Parole Board should be remunerated for time spent reading and preparing in advance of a meeting.	Supported The Queensland Government will appropriately remunerate parole board members once the new board is in place.
44	The legislation should permit and provide for a police officer nominated by the Commissioner of Police to sit as a member of the Parole Board.	Supported Legislation will be amended to permit a police officer, nominated by the Police Commissioner, to sit on the parole board.
45	The legislation should provide that, when hearing and deciding an application for parole from a prisoner who has been sentenced for serious violent or serious sexual offence, and for any subsequent decision in relation to a grant of parole to such a prisoner, the Parole Board shall be constituted by five members comprising: (a) the President or Deputy President; (b) a Professional Member; (c) a public service officer employed in the Probation and Parole Service and nominated by the chief executive; (d) a serving police officer nominated by the Commissioner of Police; (e) a Community Member.	Supported The Queensland Government will ensure the new parole board is constituted in two ways – a five person board for applications by a serious violent or serious sexual offender and a three person board for all other applications.
46	The legislation should provide that for all other applications heard by the Parole Board, the	Supported

	<p>Board shall be constituted by three members comprising:</p> <p>(a) a Chair, who is either the President, Deputy President or a Professional Member who has engaged in legal practice for at least five years;</p> <p>(b) a Professional Member;</p> <p>(c) a Community Member.</p>	<p>The Queensland Government will amend legislation to require that the board be constituted as per the recommendation for all other applications.</p>
47	<p>Queensland Corrective Services should design an initial training program for new Parole Board members and the Secretariat of the Parole Board should deliver ongoing training to Parole Board members.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will ensure training is provided to new board members and that ongoing training is provided to all parole board members.</p>
48	<p>The training for Parole Board members should include training in the value, uses and limitations of risk assessment tools.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will ensure training is provided to new board members and that ongoing training is provided to all parole board members.</p>
49	<p>The President, Deputy President and professional members of the Parole Board should work with those with relevant responsibilities in Queensland Corrective Services to develop and refine the information and reports presented to the Board and continue to review that material.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will ensure that information provided to the parole boards is sufficient for the parole board to discharge their duty.</p>
50	<p>The prisoner and relevant Probation and Parole officer or case manager should be available by videolink to appear before the Board at the time that the Board is considering a matter.</p>	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The Queensland Government will explore ways to ensure that information provided to the parole boards is sufficient for the parole board to discharge their duty.</p>
51	<p>The Parole Board should be required to decide applications for parole within 120 days of the application being made by a prisoner.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will amend legislation to require the parole board to consider applications within 120 days of lodgement.</p>
52	<p>Once appointed, the President, Deputy President and professional members should not be able to be removed except for misconduct so as to give certainty to those positions and ensure the independence of the Board.</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will amend legislation to enact fixed-term appointments for the President, Deputy-President and professional members of the parole board.</p>
53	<p>The Parole Board and Queensland Corrective Services should review their information</p>	<p>Supported</p>

	technology systems and be adequately funded to implement the required new systems and the increased use of videoconferencing.	The Queensland Government will review and seek funding for IT systems for the new parole board, including videoconferencing technology.
54	As an independent statutory authority, the Parole Board should be supported by a Secretariat separate from Queensland Corrective Services, subject to the direction and management of the President.	Supported An independent parole board secretariat will be created to support the new board, reporting directly to the President.
55	The Parole Board should be provided with new premises to support multiple, concurrent meetings with appropriate facilities to provide for offender appearances and the use of videoconferencing for each board meeting.	Supported The Queensland Government will provide the new parole board with new premises to support concurrent meetings and enable videoconferencing.
56	The Attorney-General should review the interaction between the <i>Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003</i> and the grant of parole.	Supported The Queensland Government will review the relationship between the <i>Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003</i> and the grant of parole.
57	The Parole Board, through its President, and in consultation with Queensland Corrective Services, should produce a practice note or guideline identifying the information and reports that it will require for its deliberations in respect of applications for parole by prisoners convicted of serious sexual offences, and such other types of prisoners as the Board considers helpful and necessary.	Supported The Queensland Government will ensure that information provided to the parole boards is sufficient for the parole board to discharge their duty.
58	The government should review the policy restricting placement of sexual offenders and those prisoners convicted for murder or those with a serious violent offence declaration with a view to reintroducing appropriate candidates to low security facilities.	Not supported The Queensland Government has reviewed the policy and does not support changes to the current policy. The policy was introduced following the escape of a convicted murderer. The possibility of an escape by prisoners convicted of sexual offences or subject to life imprisonment has such high potential to undermine public confidence in the low security program, that this particular recommendation cannot be supported.

59	The <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> should be amended to reintroduce the discretion of the Chief Executive to grant resettlement leave.	Supported in principle The Queensland Government will explore options to reintroduce resettlement leave.
60	Queensland Corrective Services' GPS tracking capabilities should be developed so that it is possible for the parole board to require GPS tracking and monitoring in appropriate circumstances based on the assessed risk of each parolee.	Supported The Queensland Government will expand GPS tracking capabilities to allow for monitoring parolees in appropriate circumstances.
61	Decisions of the Parole Board should continue to be subject to judicial review.	Supported The Queensland Government will retain judicial review for parole board decisions.
Management of Offenders in the Community		
62	The Government should provide the funding and associated resources necessary to allow Queensland Corrective Services progressively to bring Queensland in line with the Australian average offender-to-staff ratios within three years to make workloads more manageable and increase the efficacy of case management.	Supported The Queensland Government will work towards increasing Probation and Parole resources to gradually bring Queensland in line with the Australian average staff to offender ratio, starting with the recruitment of administrative support staff.
63	Queensland Corrective Services should remove the mandatory requirement for a degree qualification in human services or criminology for Probation and Parole case managers but with the following two qualifications: (a) such qualifications would remain desirable (b) the implementation of this recommendation should only occur in concert with the implementation of the recommended changes to the training programs for probation and parole officers.	Supported The Queensland Government will remove the mandatory degree qualification for Probation and Parole officers once the necessary training is in place.
64	Queensland Corrective Services should substantially and immediately increase the number of Cultural Liaison Officer positions within the Probation and Parole workforce, particularly in offices supervising high numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders.	Supported The Queensland Government will increase the number of cultural liaison officers within QCS. Recruitment will commence in 2017.
65	Queensland Corrective Services should consider options for expanding or relocating probation and parole offices as needed to accommodate the growing offender numbers and necessary increases in staffing.	Supported The Queensland Government will explore options for appropriate accommodation for an expanded Probation and Parole workforce.

66	Queensland Corrective Services should reformulate its training program so as to ensure that new probation and parole officers undertake all necessary and appropriate training prior to being allocated a caseload of offenders to supervise.	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce a new training package for Probation and Parole officers.
67	Queensland Corrective Services should review and revise the content of the current training program for probation and parole officers, and consider doing so in partnership with a university, so as to develop a training program that is fit for purpose and appropriately instructs trainee officers in managing offenders.	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce a new training package for Probation and Parole officers.
68	Before removing the mandatory degree qualification for probation and parole officers, Queensland Corrective Services should develop additional training modules appropriate for trainee officers without an academic qualification.	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce a new training package for Probation and Parole officers.
69	The revised training program for probation and parole officers should be externally evaluated before it is implemented and be subject to programmed periodic re-evaluations.	Supported Once the new training package for Probation and Parole officers is finalised, it will be externally evaluated.
70	Queensland Corrective Services should develop training courses for more senior positions, such as the role of Supervisor, and require those courses to be completed before an employee takes up the role.	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce a new training package for Probation and Parole officers.
71	Queensland Corrective Services should create Practice Leader positions within Probation and Parole to provide practice development sessions, professional supervision and clinical support of staff to embed their training and continually improve their case management skills.	Supported The Queensland Government will create practice leader positions as part of the development of a new training program.
72	Queensland Corrective Services should have ongoing professional and practice development training of probation and parole officers.	Supported The Queensland Government will include professional and practice development opportunities as part of the new training package for Probation and Parole officers.
73	As part of designing and implementing the system recommended in Recommendation No 12, Queensland Corrective Services should identify tasks that can be completed pre-release, such as induction into the parole order, and provide for those tasks to be undertaken by the parole officer before the commencement of the offender's order.	Supported The Queensland Government will implement a new parole release process.
74	Queensland Corrective Services should introduce dedicated support positions to provide administrative support to supervising officers,	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce dedicated

	eliminating the administrative burden and increasing the efficacy of face-to-face case management, and should be appropriately funded to do so.	administrative support for Probation and Parole officers.
75	Queensland Corrective Services should carefully consider the results of evaluations of the trial of environmental corrections at Inala, including external evaluation, and how, if at all, the environmental corrections approach might inform and benefit case management of parolees in Queensland.	Supported The Queensland Government will review the results of the Environmental Corrections trial.
76	Queensland Corrective Services and the Parole Board should specifically record whether a suspension has occurred because a further offence has been committed and distinguish between a suspension involving actual reoffending and suspensions due to an unacceptable risk where no further offence has occurred.	Supported The Queensland Government will introduce new reporting practices in relation to parole suspensions.
77	Queensland Corrective Services should instruct probation and parole officers to consider, as part of the case management of parolees, whether it is appropriate to seek to have the Parole Board add a condition requiring GPS monitoring for an appropriate period of time.	Supported The Queensland Government will amend operational practice regarding the use of parole order amendments.
78	The power to suspend parole should be vested solely in the Queensland Parole Board.	Supported The Queensland Government will amend legislation so that power to suspend parole is vested solely with the parole board.
79	The legislation should provide for urgent suspensions of parole to occur on the following basis: (a) the Chief Executive (or delegate) can apply to the Parole Board for the urgent issuing of a warrant (b) the decision to urgently issue a warrant can be made on behalf of the Parole Board by one professional member of the Board or the President or Deputy President of the Board (c) the full Board must consider whether to rescind the warrant or, if the warrant has been executed, order the release of the parolee, within two business days of the warrant having been issued (d) for the purposes of the consideration by the full Board, the parole officer responsible for	Supported The Queensland Government will amend legislation to allow for urgent suspensions to occur on the basis as per the recommendation.

	the management of the prisoner must provide a written report to the Board as to the reasons justifying the suspension.	
80	For the purposes of implementing the legislative system set out in the preceding recommendation, at least one professional member of the Parole Board should be rostered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the purpose of considering an urgent application for a warrant.	Supported The Government will amend legislation to ensure the parole board has a 24/7 function to consider urgent applications for warrants.
Victims and Other Matters of Importance to Parole		
81	Queensland Corrective Services and the Parole Board should implement strong systems and accountability measures to ensure that information is available to the Victims Register to provide to victims at the earliest opportunity.	Supported The Queensland Government will review information sharing practices and make any necessary changes to ensure information is available to the Victims Register at the earliest opportunity.
82	The phrase 'history of violence' should be defined in section 320(2)(d)(i) of the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> to include the broad definition of domestic violence as outlined in the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> .	Supported The Queensland Government will amend legislation to define "history of violence" as per the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012</i> .
83	The relevant legislation should be amended so that DVOs automatically pause while the subject of the order is in prison.	Supported in principle The Queensland Government will consider how best to ensure victims of domestic and family violence continue to be protected from all forms of domestic and family violence while an offender is in custody and when the offender is released on parole. This will be considered in consultation with domestic and family violence victims and stakeholders.
84	The Assessment and Parole Unit should liaise with Queensland Police Service and investigate whether an offender had a DVO at the time of, or around the time of, entering custody. If an offender has been the subject of a DVO as a respondent or a perpetrator, the Parole Unit must: (a) ensure that victims of domestic violence and the Queensland Police Service are informed if an offender is approaching a parole release date or is preparing to apply for parole;	Supported The Queensland Government will review information sharing practice in relation to domestic violence orders and amend practice as per the recommendation.

	<p>(b) any current or previous DVO should be considered in conducting any home assessment;</p> <p>(c) the existence of a DVO should be communicated to the Parole Board to allow appropriate measures (conditions and submissions) to be put in place to ensure the safety of those with a history of being the victim of domestic violence; and</p> <p>(d) the Parole Board must notify the Queensland Police Service if they intend to release an offender who was the subject of a DVO at the time of sentence.</p>	
85	A person registered on the Victims Register should be able to apply to the Parole Board for an extension of the 21-day period allowed under section 188 of the <i>Corrective Services Act 2006</i> to provide submissions.	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will amend legislation to allow persons registered on the Victims Register to apply to the parole board for a 21 day extension to provide a submission.</p>
86	A criterion for appointment of community members of the Parole Board should include a victims representative.	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will amend legislation to allow for a victims representative to be a community member appointed to the parole board.</p>
87	The Queensland Government should introduce legislation, similar to that in South Australia, which requires the Parole Board to consider the cooperation of a prisoner convicted of murder or manslaughter and not release the prisoner on parole unless the Board is satisfied that the prisoner has satisfactorily cooperated in the investigation of the offence, including, when relevant, by assisting in locating the remains of the victim of the offence.	<p>Supported</p> <p>Legislative provisions will be introduced in 2017 to give effect to the “No Body, No Parole” policy which prevents a murderer from being granted parole where s/he has not revealed where the victim’s body is located.</p> <p>A number of models, including that which has been introduced in South Australia (better known as a “no cooperation, no parole” system), exist and could be adopted in Queensland. The Government will determine the best model to introduce to give effect to this recommendation.</p>
Independent Prison and Parole Inspectorates		
88	<p>The Queensland Government should establish an Inspectorate of Correctional Services with the following conditions:</p> <p>(a) the Governor of Queensland is to appoint an appropriately qualified person to the office of Chief Inspector;</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will establish an independent inspectorate based on the conditions included in the recommendation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) the Chief Inspector is not subject to the direction by a Minister or Member of Parliament in the performance of the functions of the office; (c) the Chief Inspector examine all operations of the correctional system in Queensland, including all prisons, probation and parole and other operations; (d) the Chief Inspector report to Parliament on findings of each review or examination; (e) the Chief Inspector oversee the Official Visitor programs; and (f) the Chief Inspector work collaboratively with the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. 	
89	Queensland Corrective Services should retain a function internal to the department to undertake internal review and investigations as required by the Commissioner, but this must be in addition to and not in derogation of a fully independent inspectorate.	<p>Supported</p> <p>In addition to the Independent Inspectorate the Queensland Government will retain a QCS function to undertake internal reviews and investigations.</p>
90	The Queensland Government should consider expanding the Inspectorate of Correctional Services to examine the operations of adult corrections, youth detention and police detention in watch-houses.	<p>Supported in principle</p> <p>The Queensland Government will consider the purview of the Inspectorate and whether it should be expanded to include youth detention and police watch houses prior to establishing it.</p>
Technology and Infrastructure		
91	The information technology systems required for the implementation of other recommendations should be reviewed and the necessary software systems developed or upgraded with appropriate funding.	<p>Supported</p> <p>The Queensland Government will identify and seek funding for appropriate IT systems to meet operational requirements.</p>