



PAROLE BOARD

OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

I am pleased to provide this report on the activities of the Parole Board of the Northern Territory during the year ending 31 December 2019, in compliance with section 3H of the *Parole Act 1971*.

The Hon Justice Stephen Southwood

Chairperson

Purpose of the Annual Report

The purpose of this report is twofold: first, to meet the statutory reporting requirements of section 3H of the *Parole Act 1971*; and second, to increase public awareness of the Parole Board's role in the criminal justice system.

The Parole Board of the Northern Territory makes important decisions that affect the freedom of individuals and impact upon victims, their families and the communities into which offenders are released.

Members of the Parole Board take their responsibilities seriously and are committed to affording the public every opportunity to understand the process by which the Board arrives at its decisions.



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YEAR IN REVIEW

Chairperson's Message

The work of the Parole Board continues to increase. In 2019 the Parole Board considered 1351 matters which is 34 more matters than the Board considered in 2018. However, there was once again a decline in the number of prisoners who were granted parole. 155 prisoners were granted parole in 2019 which is three fewer than in 2018 and six fewer than were granted parole in 2017.

The environment in which the Parole Board functions is also becoming increasingly difficult. The operation of the two correctional centres in the Northern Territory is reaching a critical tipping point. For most of 2019 there were more than 1800 prisoners in the two major correctional centres and the two work camps. The number of hours prisoners are spending in their cells has significantly increased. There continues to be insufficient rehabilitation resources available to prisoners in the two major correctional centres.

The misuse of methamphetamine is a criminogenic factor for a significantly

increasing number of prisoners. The use of Kronic within the prisons is becoming more widespread. The Sentenced to a Job Program otherwise known as the Paid Employment Program is at risk of coming to an end at least so far as it operates from the two main correctional centres. Prisoners are not being adequately prepared for parole. A number of significant industrial issues have not been completely resolved. Some of the members and representatives of the union for Correctional staff are resistant to necessary reforms in the operation of the Darwin Correctional Centre. Community Corrections service the Parole Board very well, in what is a challenging work and fiscal environment. However, despite recent improvements in retention, staff turnover remains high. There continues to be a shortage of transitional accommodation for prisoners in the community. The Transitional Accommodation Program has for all intents and purposes collapsed. There is a real risk that the funding of rehabilitation places for COMMIT parolees in residential



rehabilitation facilities in the community is coming to an end. 109 prisoners declined parole in 2019, and at the current time (2020), there are 205 prisoners in the two correctional centres who have passed their non-parole period. NAAJA Throughcare funding has ceased for parole specific support. This is a great loss. The Throughcare NAAJA provided for parolees was of outstanding quality and parolees supported by NAAJA case workers achieved very low recidivism rates.

Despite the completion of a number of very detailed reviews of the Northern Territory Correctional Centres which have recommended significant reforms to the operation of the two centres, Government policy continues to lag significantly behind what has been recommended and remains ad hoc.

On the operational side, a steering committee has been formed which is comprised of the Chairperson of the Parole Board, the Secretary of the Parole Board, the Deputy Commissioner of Corrections, the Assistant Commissioner Community Corrections, Assistant Commissioner Offender Services and Programs, Director Offender Services and Programs and Acting Director Aboriginal Strategy and Coordination to consider steps which can be taken to educate prisoners about parole and improve the ways in which prisoners are being prepared for parole. The work being done by this committee is most important and it is hoped will lead to a significant reduction in the number of prisoners declining parole, an increase in the number of prisoners being granted parole, and a reduction in conditional breaches of parole orders.

In order to deal with the complexity of managing high risk prisoners on parole with a history of methamphetamine misuse and violent offending, members of the

Parole Board and Community Corrections have formulated a COMMIT protocol. The purpose of the protocol is to maximise community safety. Among other things the protocol involves:

- A detailed assessment of the prisoner's risk of reoffending and criminogenic factors.
- The attendance of Members of the Parole Board who are psychologists or medical practitioners at meetings of the Parole Board which are considering the release of high risk prisoners with a history of methamphetamine use.
- The Parole Board interviewing the prisoner who is applying for parole.
- The Parole Board interviewing the Probation and Parole Officer who is to supervise the prisoner if he / she is granted parole.
- The preparation of Case Plans by Community Corrections. The formulation of the Case Plan involves extensive discussion with the parolee.
- The review of Case Plans by the Parole Board.
- Regular face to face meetings between the PPO and the parolee after parole is granted.
- The engagement of the parolee's employer and all therapeutic and other support persons in the supervision and management of the parolee in the community.
- Regular Progress Reports.

I thank the Secretary of the Parole Board, Ms Jenna Dennison, and Assistant Commissioner Community Corrections, Ms Tracy Luke, for their very good work in the negotiation, preparation and drafting of the COMMIT Protocol.

Goals of the Parole Board

In the current environment, the goals of the Parole Board must be:

1. Consistent with the paramount consideration of community safety, to reduce the incarceration of Aboriginal people and increase the number of prisoners being released on parole.
2. Participate in reducing the imbalance between the number of offenders in correctional centres and the number of offenders being managed in the community.
3. Endeavour to ensure Corrections are properly preparing prisoners for parole.
4. Inform the Government of the need for greater resources to be provided for rehabilitation and treatment programs and education programs in the two correctional centres in the Northern Territory.
5. Assist the Government in formulating a coherent and comprehensive Corrections policy with a greater focus on managing prisoners on parole in the community.
6. Inform the Government of the importance of: (i) maintaining a proper management plan and structured day for each prisoner while they are in prison; and (ii) the Paid Employment Program in that regard.
7. Inform the Government of the importance of providing resources to remote communities to enable parolees to be supervised in remote communities.
8. Educate the community about parole.

Full-Time Chairperson

In my opinion, the current work load of the Board and the Chairperson of the Board

and the difficulties facing Corrections in the Northern Territory are such that the stage has now been reached where there should be a permanent full-time Chairperson of the Parole Board who is not a sitting member of the Supreme Court. Such an appointment is necessary to ensure that the above goals are achieved. Such an appointment would also be consistent with the majority of arrangements which currently operate in interstate jurisdictions.

In the Australian Capital Territory there is a Chairperson and one Deputy Chairperson. The Chairperson is not a sitting judge and is a full time appointment.

In Queensland there is a full time President and Deputy President of the Parole Board of Queensland. The President and Deputy President must be a retired judge or a lawyer who has engaged in legal practice for at least five years.

In Victoria the Chairperson is a retired County Court Judge and is a full time appointment.

In Western Australia the Chairperson is a retired District Court Judge who is appointed on a part time basis and is remunerated on the basis that they work three days a week. There is also a Deputy Chairperson who is appointed on a full time basis.

In South Australia the Chairperson is a Queens Counsel, not a judge, and works on a part time basis.

In Tasmania there is a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson. The Chairperson is not a sitting Judge and works on a part time basis.

In New South Wales the Chairperson is a District Court Judge who is not currently sitting in the District Court. The two previous Chairpersons were retired judges. The position is a part time position.



Duties of a full-time Chairperson

In my opinion a full time Chairperson of the Parole Board should have the following duties in order to ensure the goals I have referred to above are achieved.

Preparation of prisoners for parole

1. Regularly review procedures for preparing prisoners for parole in the two correctional centres.
2. Establish a protocol for and undertake regular review of:
 - Provision of rehabilitation programs for prisoners
 - VET in prison
 - Structured days
 - Paid Employment Program
3. Inspect the two correctional centres and talk to prisoners about parole.
4. Inspect work camps and talk to prisoners about parole.
5. Ensure the Victims Register and process for recording victims is updated and maintained.
6. Review the structure, content and quality of Parole Reports and Institutional Reports.
7. Review the Parole Board Manual.
8. Review COMMIT parole and the COMMIT protocol with Correctional Services.
9. Review parole conditions.

Parole Board practice and procedure

10. Ensure the Parole Board is engaging in best practice.
11. Ensure the decisions of the Parole Board are timely, just, accountable and transparent.
12. Ensure prisoners who are serving

a sentence of imprisonment with a non-parole period are accorded procedural fairness consistent with the administrative nature of Parole Board decisions and the need to act swiftly on occasion to ensure the safety of the community.

Management of prisoners on parole

13. Review the structure, content and quality of warning letters.
14. Regularly meet with Community Corrections Regional Managers and Team Leaders to be informed and regularly brought up to date about supervision and management practices.
15. Regularly meet with non-government rehabilitation providers and other service providers such as Mission Australia, Anglicare and Women of Worth.
16. Regularly meet with Elders

Community engagement

17. Educate the community about parole.
18. Review and update existing Aboriginal language resources.
19. Meet with victim advocacy groups and be regularly updated about the current concerns of victims.
20. Visit remote communities and talk about parole.

Law reform

21. Consider and comment on proposed legislative amendments.
22. Consideration of policy issues about the operation and functions of the Parole Board.
23. Preparation of reports and submissions to the Minister about recommended amendments to the Parole Act 1971 (NT).

New Secretary of the Parole Board

On 7 October 2019 Ms Jenna Dennison was appointed Secretary of the Parole Board. Ms Dennison is a legal practitioner and was admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory in 2012. She has skills and experience which are very well suited to the position of Secretary of the Board. Ms Dennison has worked with the Northern Territory Government since 2012 in criminal justice, as a senior policy lawyer, prosecutor and policy officer. Prior to becoming Secretary of the Board she did a great deal of policy work in the preparation of the amendments to the Parole Act 1971 (NT) which introduced sanctions based parole (otherwise known as COMMIT parole). Ms Dennison has also been a very valuable member of the COMMIT Steering Committee which provides support and guidance to all COMMIT stakeholders.

Ms Dennison has the skills and capacity to support, compliment and share the work which may be undertaken by a full-time Chairperson of the Parole Board. Her work and commitment to date has been of the

highest professional standard. She has made a very significant contribution to the work of the Parole Board.

I thank Ms Tracy Luke, Assistant Commissioner Community Corrections, for her extremely valuable contribution to the work of the Parole Board during her term as Secretary of the Board. Ms Luke played a seminal role in the development of the structure, processes and procedure of the Board and to ensuring the Parole Reports provided to the Parole Board were of the highest standard. She is to be highly commended for her work.

Thank you

I thank NAAJA ThroughCare support workers for their outstanding work, support and dedication to the parole process. Their work will be greatly missed and the loss of their services creates a significant gap in the support available to Aboriginal parolees in the community. I thank the Members of the Board, the Secretary of the Board, the Secretariat, all Probation and Parole Officers and Custodial Staff for their outstanding work during 2019.

Statistics at a Glance

	2017	2018	2019
- Number of matters before the Parole Board	985	1317	1351
- Number of distinct prisoners with matters before the Parole Board	450	530	569
- Number of initial parole applications	325	341	376
- Number of parole applications granted	161	158	155
- Number of parole applications refused	132	134	123
- Number of parole applications where prisoners declined parole	81	79	109
- Number of parole orders revoked	76	90	81



PROFILE

The Parole Board of the Northern Territory (the Board) is an independent statutory body established under section 3A of the *Parole Act 1971*. The Board consists of 18 members who act independently of political and bureaucratic influence to make decisions about the parole of prisoners in the best interests of the community as a whole, including the offender and the victim.

Parole is an important element of the criminal justice system as it allows prisoners to serve the balance of their sentence of imprisonment in the community, under supervision and on very strict conditions. The purpose of parole is to release prisoners into the community in a manner that provides support and increases their chances of becoming members of the community who are free of a criminal lifestyle.

The Board may:

1. grant a prisoner release on parole;
2. deny a prisoner release on parole;
3. defer consideration of a prisoner's application for parole until a later date;
4. amend or vary a parole order.

The Chairperson may:

1. amend or vary a parole order;
2. order a prisoner serve a prison sanction for non-compliance with their order;
3. revoke a parole order.

The Board makes decisions in relation

to both adult and youth offenders and its jurisdiction extends to prisoners serving a sentence of life imprisonment for the crime of murder.

In addition to the standard conditions of parole, the Board has the power to impose conditions which it believes are necessary to support the offender and prevent reoffending. The Board and the Chairperson also consider breaches of parole. A breach may be either:

- a breach of a condition of parole; or
- offending committed by the parolee while on parole.

Decisions of the Board by their very nature have the capacity to impact not only on individuals but on the broader community. Members of the Board are aware of the trust that is placed in them and take their responsibilities seriously.

Board members are supported by the Parole Board Secretariat and operational and administrative staff within Northern Territory Correctional Services and Territory Families Youth Justice.

Parole Board Members

Section 3B(1) of the *Parole Act 1971* stipulates that the Board must have 18 members who are to be:

- (a) the Chief Justice or another Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the Chief Justice; and
- (b) the Commissioner of Correctional Services; and
- (c) 2 police officers nominated by the Commissioner of Police; and
- (d) 2 persons, each of whom is –
 - (i) a medical practitioner; or
 - (ii) a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in the psychology profession (other than as a student); and
- (e) 2 persons, each of whom represents the interests of victims of crime; and
- (f) 10 persons who reflect, as closely as possible, the composition of the community at large and include women and Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders.

Members described in subparagraphs (d), (e) and (f) are appointed by the Administrator for three year terms, are eligible for reappointment, and may resign their membership in writing to the Minister.

In the absence of a member appointed under subsections (d), (e) or (f), the Minister may appoint a person to act as a member of the Board. In 2019, the Minister did not appoint any acting members to the Board.

The Chairperson of the Board has:

- responsibility for resolving questions of law; and
- a casting vote where votes are equal on questions to be determined by a majority of votes.

In 2019 the Board was chaired by the Honourable Justice Stephen Southwood. The Honourable Justice Judith Kelly acted as the Chairperson in March and 11 – 16 December 2019 and the Honourable Acting Justice Dean Mildren acted as the Chairperson from 17 – 24 December 2019. Justice Kelly was chair for the March meetings of the Board. The NT Police was represented by:

Member Name and Rank	No. of Meetings
Detective Senior Sergeant Meghan Funnel	6 occasions
Detective Superintendent Christopher Board	17 occasions
A/Assistant Commissioner Bradley Currie	2 occasions
Detective Senior Sergeant Patrick Carson	2 occasions



As at 31 December 2019, membership of the Board comprised:

Name	Position	Year First Appointed	Expiry
Hon. Justice Southwood	Chairperson	N/A	
Mr Scott McNairn	Commissioner	N/A	
Ms Ros Lague	Commissioner Proxy	N/A	
Mr Christopher Board	Police Representative	N/A	
Ms Meghan Funnell	Police Representative	N/A	
Ms Susan Lowry	Victim Representative Member	2004	11/02/2022
Mr John Flynn	Community Member	1977	11/02/2022
Dr Leonard Notaras	Community Member	2013	26/07/2022
Mr Paul Rysavy	Psychologist Member	2004	31/07/2022
Mr Mark McAdie	Community Member	2013	31/07/2022
Ms Jo-anne Sivyer	Community Member	2019	15/09/2022
Ms Selina Holtze	Community Member	2010	24/10/2022
Ms Susan Crane	Victim Representative Member	2014	15/05/2023
Ms Kathryn Crawley	Psychologist Member	2014	15/05/2023
Mr John Brears	Community Member	2014	15/05/2023
Ms Patricia Jane Lloyd	Community Member	2014	15/05/2023
Mr Harold Howard	Community Member	2010	15/05/2023
Mr Mark Coffey	Community Member	2014	15/05/2023
Ms Frances Kilgariff	Community Member	2017	17/07/2023

Northern Territory Community Corrections

Secretary

The Secretary of the Parole Board is a statutory role providing administrative support and strategic advice to the Board. The Secretary is not a member of the Board.

Until October 2019, this role was conducted by the Assistant Commissioner, Community Corrections, Ms Tracy Luke. Ms Luke commenced working as a probation and parole officer in Victoria in 1998 and holds a Bachelor of Social Work. Ms Luke has been the Secretary for the last 10 years and the Board is grateful for all the support and advice she has provided. The Board looks forward to working with Ms Luke in her capacity as Assistant Commissioner.

On 7 October 2019, Ms Jenna Dennison was appointed as the new Secretary. Ms Dennison is a legal practitioner and was admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory in 2012. She holds a Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) and Juris Doctor from the University of New South Wales. She has worked with the Northern Territory Government since 2012 in criminal justice as a senior legal policy lawyer, prosecutor and policy officer.

Parole Board Secretariat

The Parole Board Secretariat is comprised of the Manager of the Parole Board Secretariat (the Manager) and two Parole Board Administrators.

The Manager provides high level assistance, advice, strategic support and quality control to the Secretary, Chairperson and the Board. The Manager also oversees the Parole Board Administrator positions.

The Parole Board Administrators have the primary responsibility for coordinating and providing all administrative support for the monthly meetings of the Board.

The work of the Parole Board Secretariat continues to increase as a result of:

- new practices designed to enhance the provision of procedural fairness and improve the decision making of the Board especially with regard to higher needs offenders;
- initiatives being developed to encourage and support prisoners apply for parole;
- the increasing emphasis on the continuing education of Board members; and
- the COMMIT sanctions regime and an increase in interviews for prisoners who are being considered for COMMIT parole.

Probation and Parole Officers

The functions of probation and parole officers under section 3R of the *Parole Act 1971* are to:

- supervise persons released on parole as assigned by the Parole Board;
- prepare reports as required by the Parole Board;
- maintain case records and statistics as required by the Parole Board;
- carry out the directions of the Parole Board in relation to a parole order;
- investigate and make reports to the Parole Board on the employment and place of living available to each person applying for release on parole; and
- perform such other duties as directed by the Parole Board or the Chairperson.



Probation and parole officers commence working with a prisoner eight months before they become eligible for parole.

During this time the probation and parole officer works closely with the prisoner, their family, communities, service providers and victims to ensure that Board members are provided with comprehensive, timely and reliable information.



UNDERSTANDING PAROLE

Authority to release

The *Sentencing Act 1995* provides that a sentencing court may fix a non-parole period (NPP) for an offender who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least 12 months.

The NPP set by the sentencing court stipulates the minimum time a prisoner must serve in custody before being eligible for release on parole. Contrary to other Australian jurisdictions, a prisoner does not have a right to be released on parole and is not automatically granted parole on the expiry of their NPP.

The Board has full authority to decide if and when a prisoner is to be released on parole after the expiry of the NPP. The Board may decide a prisoner is not to be granted parole and should serve the whole of their sentence in prison.

Community Supervision

Unless parole is revoked prior to release, a prisoner who is released on parole is supervised in the community by a probation and parole officer for the balance of the term of the prisoner's sentence of imprisonment. The prisoner is supervised in accordance with conditions fixed by the Board. The purpose of parole is to support

and assist the prisoner re-integrate into the community and live a lawful life.

Variation of parole conditions

Section 5B of the *Parole Act 1971* provides the Chairperson with the authority to amend a parole order by varying, adding or revoking one or more conditions at any time before the expiration of the order.

Under section 5B(2) the variation does not take effect until the notice of the variation is given to the parolee.

Parole conditions may be varied or removed due to the extent to which the parolee has succeeded in rehabilitating themselves in the community.

Ordering of sanctions - COMMIT Parole

With the introduction of COMMIT parole in 2017, the Board now has the option to order a parolee serve a prison sanction for an act of non-compliance with their parole order. Importantly, the sanction does not extend the sentence as a revocation of parole would.

Once the sanction is served the prisoner is released and the same parole order continues to run.

Revocation of Parole

The Chairperson has the authority to revoke a parole order.

A breach of parole may fall into one of two categories:

- reoffending – this means that the parolee has committed a new offence whilst released on parole; or
- conditional – this means that the parolee has breached one of the conditions of their parole order.

The Chairperson has the authority to make a decision about the revocation of a parolee's parole order and issue an Instrument of Revocation. However, it is the practice of the Chairperson in non-urgent matters, to consult board members at scheduled meetings about revocations and accept the recommendations of the members. If a parole order is revoked, the parolee is arrested by police and brought before the Local Court. The Local Court must commit the parolee to prison if satisfied that parole has been revoked.

Alternatively, the Board may request the Commissioner of Police to have a parolee who fails to comply with their parole conditions arrested and brought before the Local Court for cancellation of the parole order. Submissions may then be made on behalf of the parolee about why parole should not be revoked. The Local Court has discretion to cancel or refuse to cancel parole on such occasions.

Where an order is revoked the offender is returned to prison to they must serve the balance of the sentence that was remaining when they were released to parole.

The prisoner does not get 'credit' for the period of time they were in the community on parole – often referred to as 'street time'. If a prisoner is subject to a COMMIT parole order and serves a sanction, they

receive credit for this, if parole is later revoked. Refer COMMIT Parole below.

COMMIT Parole

In 2017 the *Parole Act 1971* was amended to allow for swift, certain and proportionate sanctions to be imposed for acts of non-compliance with parole conditions while supporting a parolee through their order and transition into the community. The scheme is referred to as COMMIT parole. The aims of the COMMIT parole are to:

- reduce prisoner numbers by increasing the number of community based offenders;
- reduce the time offenders spend in prison and in the corrections system;
- reduce the rate of reoffending;
- change the behaviour of offenders so they are capable and willing to make appropriate life choices and lead a lawful life;
- help parolees through their orders rather than see a revocation of parole and the loss of street time;
- improve offender compliance; and
- reduce drug and alcohol misuse.

Generally speaking, COMMIT parole is considered for higher risk offenders who:

1. have a history of non-compliance with conditions of supervision in the community;
2. substance misuse; and
3. been convicted of a violent offence.

The effect of COMMIT parole is to impose a short yet certain sanction (2 to 30 days in custody) for a breach (or 'poor choice') immediately after the violation is detected.

A parolee cannot ignore the cost of a parole order breach today if he or she is in prison tomorrow, particularly if that is going



to happen every time there is a parole breach. However, once the sanction is served the parolee is released to continue working with his or her probation and parole officer on the same order.

Delivering relatively modest sanctions in a certain, swift and consistent manner is likely to be more effective than unexpectedly 'lowering the boom' and revoking parole after numerous warnings.

It is now widely recognised that in order for a sanction to have a deterrent effect on breach behaviour, an offender must:

- realise there is a sanction for the act being contemplated;
- know the sanction that is to be imposed;
- take into account the risk of incurring the sanction when choosing to engage in breach behaviour/s;
- believe there is a real likelihood of being caught;
- believe the sanction will be applied; and
- be willing (and able) to alter their choice to offend in light of the sanction.

For deterrence to work effectively, the conditions above must be satisfied.

Knowledge of penalties logically precedes perceptions of certainty and severity of penalties. For deterrence to influence the decision-making process, the offender must have knowledge of the punishment for the breach and the likelihood of it being imposed so an informed choice is made about whether or not to engage in that behaviour.

COMMIT parole incorporates these principles. The prisoner is informed that:

- there will be a sanction imposed on the prisoner for each parole violation (unless there are extenuating circumstances);
- a specific sanction will be imposed

for each particular breach of parole conditions. The sanctions are perceived to be fair and reasonable and are designed to correct the parolee's behaviour. The sanctions are structured in such a way that parolees receive a lesser sanction if they take responsibility for their actions;

- compliance with conditions of parole will be rigorously monitored and therefore all violations will be immediately detected;
- the sanction for each parole violation will be swiftly enforced. Parolees are to be held accountable for their actions and decision making;
- how much time a parolee spends in prison is dependent on the choices made by the parolee. It is only if the parolee makes a bad decision that the parolee will be returned to prison; and at the time the parolee makes the bad decision, the parolee clearly knows the cost of the bad decision;
- the COMMIT regime will persist for the duration of the parole period. The prisoner knows that neither the Board nor his/her probation and parole officers will give up on the prisoner. The system is going to be in place for the duration of the prisoner's time on parole.
- The idea is to make a parole violation an illogical and costly choice for the parolee.

COMMIT parole is solution focussed. It involves the cooperation of the parolee, probation and parole officers, through-care workers, the police, prosecutions and the Local Court to ensure that any parole violation is dealt with swiftly.

The COMMIT Sanction Matrix is published in the Government Gazette and can also be accessed from the Parole Board website: https://paroleboard.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/666133/COMMIT-Parole-Sanctions-Matrix.pdf

Parole Process

Preparing for parole takes time and careful consideration over many months, if not years, by many people, including:

- The prisoner seeking to apply for parole;
- Prison officers and the Sentence Management Team;
- Treatment and Programs staff and clinicians;
- Community Corrections Probation and Parole Officers; and
- The prisoner's family and community support networks.

A parole application to the Parole Board requires input from all of the people above.

Sentence Management Team and Offender Management Plan

The prisoner will need to be able to show the Parole Board that they:

- Have good support networks in the community;
- A good release plan that may include work or a rehabilitation program;
- Have a safe place to live;
- Have completed all your treatment programs; and
- Are ready to reintegrate into the community and live a law abiding life.

Planning for parole commences once a prisoner has been sentenced. Prisoners will have an offender management plan (OMP) that outlines their plan for skills development and pre-release job planning. The OMP is developed when the prisoner first commences their sentence, and is regularly reviewed and monitored throughout the period of their sentence.

The OMP includes a plan for education and training which will support work readiness,

and a plan for an employment pathway prior to their release (whether that be on parole or at the end of their full time sentence). Post-release support including job opportunities, accommodation and other support will trigger the discussion for pre-release planning with the prisoners, family members, Aboriginal Elders and Community Corrections.

Offender Management Framework and parole applications

A prisoner with a non-parole period is scheduled for a parole application two months prior to the expiration of the non-parole period. A probation and parole officer will engage with a prisoner 8 months prior to the application going before the Parole Board to work with the prisoner to develop the prisoner's plan. The probation and parole officers will also provide information to the Board with regard to the prisoner's level of risk, needs and responsivity.

Board meetings

The table below sets out the frequency of meetings of the Board, the quorums that are required to constitute a meeting of the Board, and the number of votes required for the Board to make a decision about parole for prisoners serving a life sentence for the crime of murder and for all other sentences of imprisonment with a NPP.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Meetings held quarterly

Quorum requires the Chairperson and seven other members

Decisions require a unanimous vote

ALL OTHER SENTENCES

Two meetings held monthly

Quorum requires the Chairperson and three other members

Decisions require a majority vote



*In 2019 **155** prisoners were granted parole and **109** prisoners declined to be considered for parole.*

Matters considered at Board meetings

Parole is a complex administrative process. The Board may hear a number of different types of matters at each meeting. Some of the types of matters considered by the Board are:

- applications for parole;
- reports about breaches of parole (revocation reports or advice);
- notifications that a parolee has completed their parole order;
- reports providing updates on current parolees and their progress;
- prisoners declining to be considered for parole;
- applications for variations of parole conditions; and
- notification of a formal transfer to another jurisdiction.

Attendance of prisoners at Board meetings

Generally speaking, it is the practice of the Board to decide parole matters on the relevant documents without the prisoner being present. The Board is of the view that

the materials received or obtained by the Board provide a fair and comprehensive basis to decide whether a prisoner should or should not be granted parole.

However the Chairperson may require a prisoner to be brought before the Board pursuant to section 3G of the *Parole Act 1971*. In 2019 three prisoners provided verbal submissions to the Parole Board.

Either the prisoner or their legal representative may write to the Secretary of the Board requesting the prisoner be required to attend their parole hearing. Applications are determined by the Chairperson after consultation with members of the Board.

Probation and parole officers attended several meetings of the Board when higher risk matters were considered to provide advice and answer questions of the Board.

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) provided numerous detailed written submissions to the Board on behalf of prisoners seeking parole.

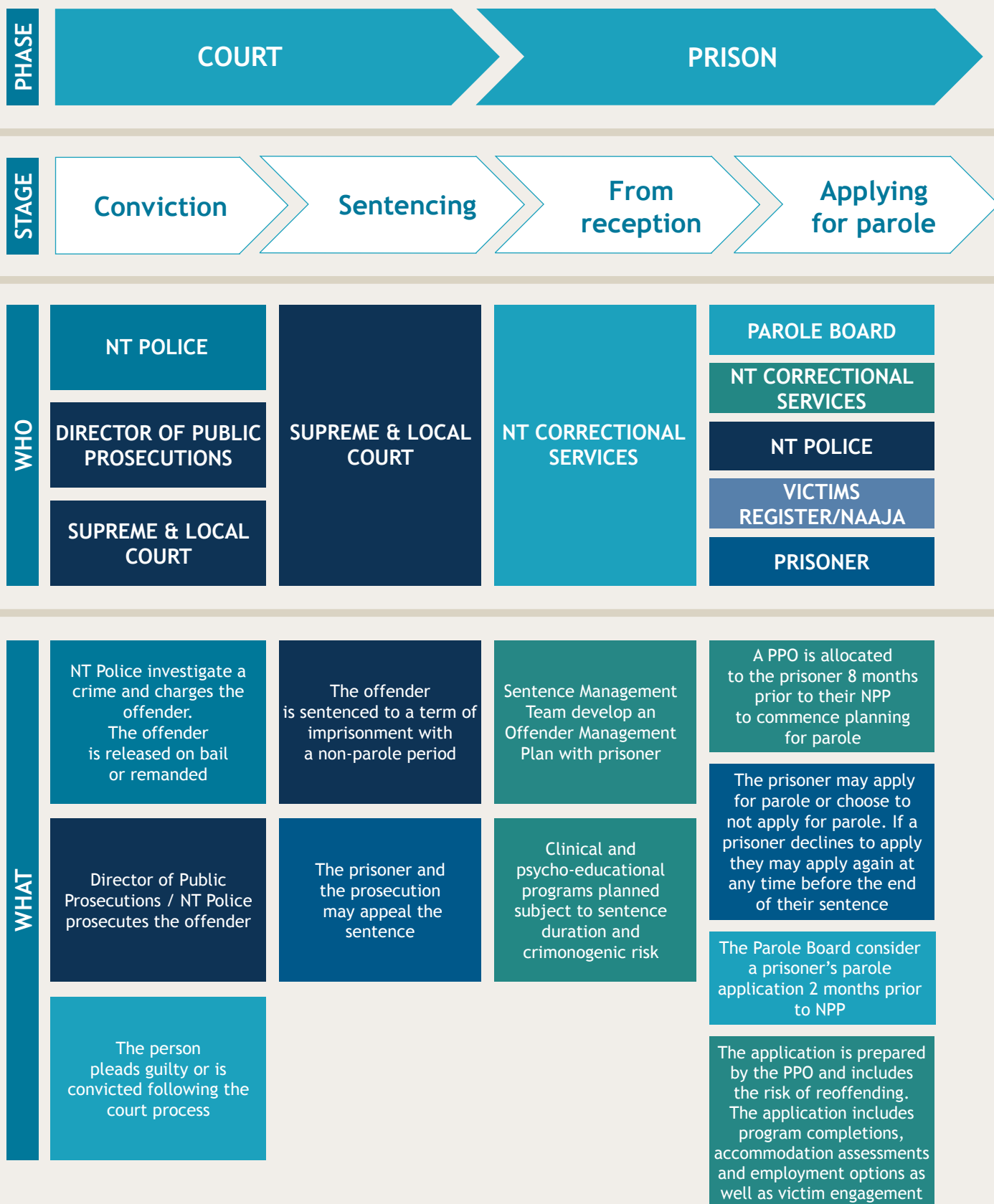
Representatives from Territory Families attended several meetings of the Board when youth matters were considered to provide advice and answer questions of the Board.

WHAT PRISONERS SAY TO THE PAROLE BOARD WHEN APPLYING FOR PAROLE

No to drugs
 Trust Enough
 Play sport is enough
 Achieve for my kids
 Take full responsibility
 Will come together
 Health
 See the error of my ways
 Friends
 You will not see me again
 Stable routine
 Very sorry
 Play sport
 Keep away from people
 Job
 Family
 Be with my kids
 Persistence
 Learn to say no
 No to violence
 Job
 Trust
 Do the right thing
 Residential rehabilitation
 Self-worth
 Strong minded
 Family
 Be with my kids
 Support my family
 Values
 Learn to say no
 Stay out of trouble
 No to drugs
 Health
 Persistence
 My mum will be my support
 Job
 Will come together
 Work towards positives
 Do some study
 Want to get back to family and community
 No to violence
 Persistence
 Get employment
 Connections can break down
 Friends
 Values
 Trust

WHY PRISONERS DECLINE PAROLE

Will do my full time
 Too many conditions
 No humbug
 Just want to be free
 Breach
 Too hard
 Got a job and money



PAROLE

Deciding to grant, deny
or defer parole

Parole Outcome

PAROLE BOARD

PAROLE BOARD

NT CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

NT POLICE

VICTIMS REGISTER/NAAJA

PRISONER

The Parole Board considers the prisoner's parole application or notes that the prisoner declined to be considered. Community safety is the paramount consideration for the Parole Board

The prisoner is supervised by PPO

PPO provides progress reports to the Board on a scheduled and adhoc basis to keep the Board informed on prisoner's reintegration and progress on parole

Generally speaking, the Board assesses the application on the papers. To assist with its decision for higher risk offenders the Board may interview the prisoner or PPO. The Board also takes into account vicim submissions

Through case management and compliance checks PPO notifies the Board about a prisoner's breach of conditions or escalating risk

The Board decides to grant or deny parole to the prisoner or defer consideration for additional information. The Board may impose the sanction regime (COMMIT parole) as a condition of the parole order

If police have reasonable belief that a prisoner has breached certain conditions they can arrest the prisoner and bring the prisoner before the Court

The Chairperson may issue a warning or issue a sanction (if subject to COMMIT parole), vary the conditions, or revoke parole and return to prison

The Board sets targeted parole conditions to manage the prisoner's ongoing needs in the community

The Chairperson considers all breaches of parole and risk escalation

The prisoner completes their parole

If a prisoner's parole is revoked the prisoner can re-apply for parole. The prisoner does not get any credit for 'street time'



Considerations for the Parole Board

When considering whether to release a prisoner on parole, the Board considers:

- the interests and safety of the community;
- the rights of the victim, including their families;
- the intentions of the sentencing judge;
- the needs of the prisoner; and
- whether the prisoner has recognised the error of their ways and is prepared to change their behaviour for the better and live a lawful life.

In making their decision the Board takes into consideration a number of factors:

- the nature and circumstances of the offence(s);
- comments made by the sentencing judge when imposing sentence;
- the prisoner's criminal history and patterns of offending;
- the possibility of the prisoner reoffending while on parole and the likely nature of the reoffending;
- the risk of harm to the community and the victim;
- release plans, including accommodation and employment;
- reports, assessments and recommendations made by a variety of professionals, including medical practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, custodial staff and/or community corrections officers;
- rehabilitation courses undertaken by the prisoner;
- education courses undertaken by the prisoner;

- institutional reports in relation to the prisoner's behaviour while in prison;
- the security rating of the prisoner within the prison;
- victim's safety, welfare and whereabouts;
- representations made by the victim or by persons related to the victim;
- submissions made by the prisoner, the prisoner's family, friends and any potential employers or any other relevant individuals;
- submissions made by the legal representatives of the prisoner; and
- whether the prisoner can be adequately supervised in the community under the standard conditions of parole or whether additional parole conditions should be imposed.

The Board has an unfettered discretion and considers each case on its own merits.

The Board considers a range of material when deciding whether or not to release a prisoner to parole.

The material provided to the Board will always include:

- a parole report prepared by the assigned probation and parole officer;
- an institutional report prepared by staff of the correctional centre or detention centre where the prisoner or detainee is held;
- the facts of the prisoner's offending;
- a record of the prisoner's prior convictions; and
- the remarks of the sentencing judge if the prisoner was sentenced in the Supreme Court.

The Board may also consider such other reports as are relevant for the individual case, including:

- pre-sentence reports;
- psychological/psychiatric assessments and reports;
- rehabilitation course assessments and reports including assessments and exit reports about violent offender programs, sexual offender programs, alcohol and other drug programs and family violence programs;
- medical assessments and reports;
- assessments and reports from substance misuse programs and treatment facilities;
- legal submissions made on behalf of the prisoner;
- letters and/or reports from interstate services;
- letters from the prisoner or written on behalf of the prisoner; and
- letters from the victim or victim's representative.

Prisoners serving a life sentence for the crime of murder

When considering applications for parole by prisoners serving a term of imprisonment for life for the crime of murder, the Board must have regard to the principle that the public interest is of primary importance and, in doing so, must give substantial weight to the following matters:

- the protection of the community as the paramount consideration;
- the likely effect of the prisoner's release on the victim's family; and
- if the prisoner is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, the likely effect of the prisoner's release on the prisoner's community.

Furthermore, where relevant, the Board must not release a life sentenced prisoner

to parole unless the Board considers that the prisoner has cooperated satisfactorily in the investigation to identify the location, or last known location, of the remains of the victim(s) of the offence. This is often referred to as the 'no body, no parole' policy. The Board considers a report from the Commissioner of Police outlining the level of cooperation when making this assessment.

Reasons for parole where prisoner serving life imprisonment

Section 4B(8) of the *Parole Act 1971* stipulates that the Board must give reasons for any decision or direction of the Board on a matter concerning a prisoner who is serving a term of imprisonment for murder. The Board must record the reasons in the record of its proceedings; however, the publication of information concerning parolees and parole decision-making is prohibited by the *Information Act 2002*.

Victims of Crime

The Board takes the view that victims of crime and the community are entitled to be kept safe. Therefore a prisoner should not be granted parole if they cannot be managed in the community in a manner which keeps the victim safe throughout any period that the prisoner is on parole.

The Board is cognisant of the rights of victims of crime contained in the Northern Territory Charter for Victims of Crime (the Charter) and ensures the guiding principles of the Charter are incorporated into the practice and procedure of the Board.

Under the Charter the victim may apply in writing to the Secretary of the Board requesting:

- a direction be given to a prisoner not to approach them whilst on parole; and



- for advice about the outcome of any parole proceedings concerning the prisoner.

Probation and parole officers liaise with the victims, the Crime Victims Services Unit and Witness Assistance Service and the general community to ensure victim and community concerns are taken into consideration throughout the parole process and that the victim is kept informed of any developments. Victim issues and concerns are identified in reports prepared for the Board's consideration and may result in special conditions being added to a parole order to ensure the safety of the victim.

Additionally, where a matter has a registered victim, the Secretary of the Board provides timely written updates to the Director of the Crime Victims Services Unit as stipulated by the *Victims of Crime Rights and Services Act 2006*.

Parole Conditions

The standard parole conditions attached to every Northern Territory parole order are:

1. The parolee shall be of good behaviour and must not commit another offence during the period of the order;
2. the parolee shall be subject to supervision on parole of a probation and parole officer, appointed in accordance with this parole order, and shall obey all reasonable directions of the probation and parole officer appointed;
3. the parolee shall report to the probation and parole officer, or other person nominated by the probation and parole officer, in the manner and at the places and times directed by the officer and shall be available for interview at such times and places as a probation and parole officer or nominee may from time to time direct;

4. the parolee shall not leave the Northern Territory without the written permission of the supervising probation and parole officer;
5. the parolee shall enter into employment arranged or agreed upon by the probation and parole officer and shall notify the probation and parole officer of any intention to change employment before such change occurs or, if this is impracticable, then within such period after the change as may have been directed by the probation and parole officer;
6. the parolee shall reside at an address arranged or agreed upon by the probation and parole officer and shall notify the probation and parole officer of any intention to change address before such change occurs or, if this is impracticable, then within such period after the change as may have been directed by the probation and parole officer;
7. the parolee shall not associate with any person specified in a direction by the probation and parole officer to the parolee;
8. the parolee shall not frequent or visit any place or district specified in a direction by the probation and parole officer to the parolee.

The Board frequently places additional conditions upon the release of a prisoner. These conditions are tailored to maximise protection of the community, facilitate the prisoner's successful reintegration and reduce the risk of reoffending.

The primary purpose of placing conditions on parole is to address and manage risk factors that underlie the prisoner's offending behaviour. Additional conditions often include:

- to not consume, possess or purchase alcohol or drugs;
- breath testing, oral drug testing and urinalysis;
- no contact, directly or indirectly, with a victim or other specified person;
- to reside at a specified community or outstation;
- participation in and completion of an assessment/treatment/counselling regime (residential or sessional attendance) e.g. alcohol programs, domestic violence programs, sex offender programs, psychiatric treatment;
- not to engage in conduct that might lead to a domestic violence order being made;
- curfew;
- be subject to electronic monitoring;
- be subject to the COMMIT program

Transfer of Parole Orders

The *Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984* was enacted as part of a national scheme under which a parolee can transfer to another jurisdiction and have their parole order registered under the corresponding act in that jurisdiction.

Upon registration of the parole order with the receiving jurisdiction the parolee ceases to have any connection with the originating jurisdiction. The parole order and original sentence are treated as though they were imposed in the receiving jurisdiction.

National Guidelines have been introduced to streamline the process of transferring offenders on community based supervision orders between Australian jurisdictions.

In 2019 no parolees were transferred out of the Northern Territory. Three parolees transferred their period of parole to the Northern Territory.

Youth detainees seeking parole

The Parole Board of the Northern Territory is responsible for the grant of release to parole for young people. The administrative responsibility for Youth Justice matters falls within the auspices of Territory Families. Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Officers (YOREOs) are responsible for the supervision and management of young people on parole.

When considering a young person's application for parole, the Board:

1. Makes its decisions about the parole of youths in accordance with the core principles of youth justice, in particular:
 - The youth should be dealt with in a way that acknowledges his or her needs and will provide him or her with the opportunity to develop in socially responsible ways; and
 - A youth should be kept in custody for the shortest appropriate time period.
2. Requests the supervising YOREO is present at Board meetings where youths are considered for parole and provide any further information the Board requests; and
3. Endeavours to release youths on parole directly upon the expiry of their non-parole period. The most frequent cause of any delay is the lack of suitable accommodation for the youth.



SUPPORTING SERVICES & INITIATIVES

Supporting Aboriginal Offenders

Northern Territory Correctional Services has formal arrangements with NAAJA to operate the Throughcare Support Program.

The program aims to support successful reintegration and prevent recidivism by:

- providing education to individuals, their families and communities about parole;
- assisting Aboriginal prisoners throughout the parole process by raising their awareness of the factors that have contributed to their offending behaviour and help them identify relevant rehabilitative programs while in custody;
- assisting Aboriginal prisoners to develop sustainable and effective post-release plans in collaborations with their families, communities and NTCS; and
- assisting Aboriginal parolees to successfully complete their parole orders and reintegrate into the community through the provision of targeted interventions and supported case management post release.

Under these arrangements the following occurs when a prisoner or youth detainee is a client of NAAJA:

- the Secretary of the Board provides the relevant Throughcare case manager with a copy of the letter they send to a prisoner, informing the prisoner of the decision of the Board about whether the prisoner has been granted parole or not. The Throughcare case manager can go through the letter with the prisoner and also obtain further information from the Secretary if necessary.

- where the Board makes a decision about the parole of a prisoner contrary to the recommendation contained in the report of the probation and parole officer, a meeting may be held with the officer, the Throughcare support officer and the prisoner to discuss the Board's reasons for decision.

NAAJA has been advised that if the prisoner wishes to make an application to be present at the meeting of the Board which considers his or her application for parole, then this can be facilitated by the Throughcare case manager and any such application will be considered on its merits.

Further, NAAJA have been advised the Board will consider any written submissions that are made on behalf of a prisoner about parole. The Board also regularly refers Aboriginal prisoners who would be assisted by legal representation or additional throughcare support to NAAJA.

Regrettably, in December 2019, NAAJA advised the Board that its funding for Prison-based Throughcare Support Workers would cease in mid-2020. NAAJA advised they would make funding submissions to the Federal and Territory Government to establish a parole-specific service within our Throughcare program.

COMMIT Funded Treatment Services

In mid-2017 the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice was provided two years funding for alcohol and drug treatment beds at residential rehabilitation facilities and other counselling and related support services. The Department extended the COMMIT funding for a further 6 months – up to December 2019.



Organisation	Description
Banyan House Darwin	Four dedicated beds at Banyan House for COMMIT and Community Corrections clients.
BRADAAG Tennant Creek	Twelve additional dedicated beds at BRADAAG for COMMIT and Community Corrections clients. Available to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants.
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Alice Springs	An additional clinical psychologist and social worker to expand and enhance services to COMMIT and Community Corrections clients with AOD and mental health concerns, including outreach support to clients in Amoonguna, Hermannsburg, Wallace Rockhole, Santa Teresa, Areyonga and Mutitjulu communities. Available to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants however non-Aboriginal participants will not have access to other health or wellbeing services provided through Congress.
Drug & Alcohol Services Australia (DASA) Alice Springs	Case management service, intensive harm minimisation sessions and ongoing support for up to 15 COMMIT and Community Corrections clients who are heavy drug users. The program is non-residential and offer out of hours services with a strong focus on building pro-social peer groups, recreational activities and attitudes.
FORWAARD Darwin	Nine additional dedicated beds at FORWAARD for COMMIT clients. Available to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants. Also the provision of education and training support for families and friends of COMMIT clients, so they have the tools required to best support their loved ones as they transition away from substance misuse.
Tangentyere Aboriginal Corporation Alice Springs	Dedicated case worker within the Intensive Support Program to apply assertive outreach and intensive case management to assist COMMIT and Community Corrections clients in achieving agreed goals. Available to Aboriginal participants only.
Wurli Wurlinjang Katherine	Specialist AOD counsellor to work with COMMIT and Community Corrections clients. Available to Aboriginal participants only who reside within a 40km radius of Katherine.
Venndale Katherine	There are 5 dedicated beds for COMMIT and Community Corrections clients.



Oral Drug Testing

In 2018 Northern Territory Community Corrections implemented oral drug testing in an effort to improve the management of offenders subject to drug testing conditions. The expansion of drug testing has enabled testing of offenders in remote locations where urinalysis was not feasible, and aims to assist offenders to remain drug free and increase community safety.

Northern Territory Community Corrections staff who hold a national certification as 'Collectors' maintain the chain of custody for collected specimens and adhere to the Australian Standards. Results are then confirmed by a laboratory to ensure a fair process is maintained.

Where necessary, a combination of both oral fluid and urine drug testing is used to manage a parolee's compliance.

Electronic Monitoring

In 2014 NTCS introduced the use of electronic monitoring. Electronic monitoring has been an effective tool for managing offenders on parole. The Board has welcomed electronic monitoring as an additional tool to enhance the ability of NTCC staff to monitor specific conditions relating to an offender's movements and location. Electronic monitoring can provide timely notification of non-compliance and contribute to the following outcomes:

- improve community safety through enhanced surveillance and monitoring of an offender's whereabouts and movements;



- reduce the time taken to identify and respond to non-compliance;
- enhance compliance with curfew requirements and movement restrictions;
- create exclusion zones that protect the victims of crime; and
- reduce the need for intrusive surveillance methods such as late night home visits.

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Community Corrections

The Board continues to foster a close, working relationship with NT Community Corrections that is collaborative, respectful and effective. The Parole Board Secretariat, who support the Board on a daily basis and ensure that all matters are properly prepared and presented for Board consideration, comprise of Community Corrections staff.

The Chairperson regularly communicates with the Commissioner of Correctional Services and the Assistant Commissioner, Community Corrections. The Board relies on the information it receives from the Correctional Centres and Community Corrections, including Institutional Reports and Parole Applications, to make its decisions. The Board may be assisted by the attendance of probation and parole officers / YOREOS at Board meetings to provide information and answer questions, including when the Board interviews a prisoner or youth detainee about parole.

Looking to 2020, the Board will continue to work with NT Correctional Services and the Secretariat to provide opportunities for the Board to inform NTCS staff of issues that have been identified and hear directly from NTCS about the impacts of Board practices and decisions.

Victims of Crime Considerations and Victims Register

The Board has two victims representative members appointed under section 3B(1) (e) of the *Parole Act* who represent the interests of victims of crime.

Furthermore, the Crime Victims Services Unit (CVSU), established under section 5 of the *Victims of Crime Rights and Services Act 2006* manages the Northern Territory Victims Register. The CVSU is responsible for maintaining contact with victims of violent crime who have registered to receive information about a prisoner or detainee.

The Board and the Victims Register work closely in relation to operational and policy issues. The Secretary met the Director of CVSU in November 2019 to ensure the necessary operational and information sharing arrangements were in place for both units. CVSU advise the Parole Board where there is a registered victim. The Board provides information to the Victims Register about victim-related conditions, meeting dates and release information. The Victims Register is then able to provide victims of crime with timely, relevant and accurate information about the release of a prisoner on parole.

The Parole Board Secretariat aims to provide information to the CVSU not less than 14 days from a prisoner's release date to ensure that a victim has sufficient preparation notice.

Victim Register

Individuals included on the Victims Register have the right to send a written submission to the Board when the prisoner for whom they are registered is being considered for parole. All submissions from victims are read by the Board and the issues and concerns raised are carefully considered as part of the decision-making process. Each submission is treated with strict confidence. The Parole Board



Secretariat will receive submissions for victims who are not formally registered.

Northern Territory Police

The Board and NT Police have a memorandum of understanding for the exchange of information and cooperation. The NT Police are responsible for the timely and safe arrest of prisoners who have had their parole revoked and a warrant issued for their arrest.

Parole Board Workshop

Training workshops are an essential element of the professional development of Board members.

Workshops provide an opportunity to:

- share information about current developments in the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice that impact on prisoners;
- deliver training and share information on contemporary practices and research in relation to offender management and the work of the Board; and
- receive feedback from members on the current operations of the Board and any matters that may be of concern for them.

Unfortunately a workshop with external stakeholders and providers did not take place in 2019. However, the Board in collaboration with NT Correctional Services, developed a new protocol and decision-making process regarding the release and supervision of high risk prisoners who have committed violent offences and have a history of use of Schedule 1 drugs.

Reducing Barriers to Parole

Parolees face many barriers to successful reintegration in the community that place

them at risk of reoffending, including difficulties securing accommodation and employment.

To try and overcome the barriers to reintegration, NTCS entered into a partnership with NAAJA aimed at expanding the amount of throughcare available to prisoners and parolees. NAAJA has developed their own throughcare programs which complement and supplement the throughcare provided by NTCC.

The purpose of throughcare is to assist prisoners who are on parole to set realistic goals, identify appropriate support networks and maintain practical plans for re-integration in the community.

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

NAAJA's Indigenous Throughcare Program started in 2009. It has two prison-based case workers who provide parole related information, advice and assistance to prisoners and detainees; and case managers who provide case management support to up to 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.

The role of the prison-based case workers includes:

- educating participants, their families and communities about parole;
- assisting participants to successfully obtain parole by raising their awareness of the factors that have contributed to their offending behaviours and helping them identify relevant rehabilitative programs while in custody;
- assisting participants to develop sustainable and effective post-release plans in collaboration with their families, communities, and NTCS; and
- assisting participants to successfully complete their parole orders through



the provision of supported case management post-release.

The prison-based case workers ceased in early 2019.

The role of the case managers includes:

- accepting referral of participants, including from the Darwin Correctional Centre, Territory Families, the NAAJA Prison-based case workers, external service providers or the family of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners;
- engaging participants willing to work with NAAJA on a voluntary basis six months prior to their release to assess their transitional needs including but not limited to rehabilitation, accommodation, family support and employment;
- working alongside participants to help them identify their post-release risks and goals, and develop a corresponding case management plan;
- assisting participants to identify and access relevant services and programs that can be accessed to achieve their transitional goals post-release; and
- providing participants with case management support post-release for a mutually agreed period of time that

emphasises participant empowerment and individual responsibility.

As noted above, the NAAJA Throughcare Parole Program will unfortunately cease in June 2020.

Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE)

BIITE has been engaged as the main provider for education at Darwin Correctional Centre and Alice Springs Correctional Centre under a Service Level Agreement for the delivery of Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses between 2015 until 2022. This partnership provides, where practical, continuity of VET based education for individuals entering and leaving NTCS correctional facilities irrespective of where that training commenced.

University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

USQ offer eleven Tertiary Preparation Programs (TPP) to prisoners. Courses are completed over three trimesters. Approved students are provided with an Offline Personal Device (laptop), supplied by USQ, which has restricted use with certain functions disabled.

Students who have successfully completed TPP requirements can enrol to complete



an Associate degree, Certificate, Diploma or Bachelor in a number of courses. HECS debts are incurred.

University of New England (UNE) - QuickSmart

QuickSmart is a literacy and numeracy intervention program that supports the development of basic literacy and numeracy facts. The program has focused on a peer tutor delivery model and NTCS has been supported by UNE to train suitable prisoners to deliver tutoring sessions to less capable prisoners. This not only builds concepts around learning of literacy and numeracy but has also provided positive educational experiences and development of associated skills such as confidence and self-esteem in participants as tutors and students.

Work Camps

Datjala and Barkly Work Camps provide prisoner education through local agreements with providers such as Safety Training Services and Anglicare at Datjala and Charles Darwin University and Group Training NT at Barkly Work Camp.

Privacy and information

Appropriate use, management and communication of Parole Board records

There are strict rules governing the release of information by the Northern Territory Parole Board. The disclosure of 'personal information' and 'sensitive information' is governed by the *Information Act 2002* (NT). The Parole Board is a public sector organisation within the meaning of this Act.

It is an offence for Board members or staff to use or disclose personal or confidential information unless the disclosure is authorised: section 148 of the *Information*

Act 2001 and section 76 of the Criminal Code (NT).

Information contained in an offender's file is treated as confidential and ensures that information can be provided to the Board with complete frankness by clinicians and intelligence. It also ensures that prisoners can write to and speak to the Board without reservation.

There are limited circumstances where information given to the Board may be disclosed. For example, to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute or punish the commission of an offence against a law of the Territory or any other offence or breach of a law imposing a penalty or sanction for a breach.

The Parole Board and the Media

There is no requirement or authorisation at law for release of information by the Parole Board to the media unless the individual consents to its release. The Board may provide information of a generic nature to the public or the media – about the nature of parole, decision making and the management of offenders on parole or where a person's identity is not reasonably identifiable.

Registered Victims

Under the Victims of *Crime Rights and Services Act 2006* the CVSU must provide a registered person with the offender's earliest release date and actual release date, certain victim-related conditions as well as the revocation of the parole order, but otherwise registered victims are not provided information on an offender's file. Registered victim submissions are treated with strict confidentiality.

Due to the sensitive information contained in many Parole Board records

it is important that all staff who have possession and control of these documents ensure the appropriate use, management and communication of these records.

The Parole Board Policy and Procures Manual can be found at: <https://paroleboard.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf/file/0011/666758/Policy-and-Procedures-Manual.pdf>

Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

The NTCS Professional Standards & Intelligence Unit coordinate FOI requests for the Parole Board. Freedom of Information requests for Parole Board records are directed to the Parole Board Secretariat and the Chairperson of the Parole Board.

PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DEC 2019

PAROLE APPLICATIONS

Outcome of the initial hearing	Number	%
- Parole applications granted	73	19.5%
- Parole applications deferred	134	35.5%
- Parole applications refused	92	24.5%
- Prisoner declined parole	77	20.5%
No. of initial parole applications made in 2019	376	100%

SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS

Outcome of subsequent hearings	Number	%
- Subsequent applications granted	79	33.4%
- Subsequent applications deferred	82	34.8%
- Subsequent applications refused	29	12.2%
- Prisoner declined parole	31	13.1%
Other*	15	6.5%
No. of subsequent applications made in 2019	236	100%

**Amended Order, Noted, Parole Revoked*



PAROLE APPLICATIONS FROM LIFERS

Outcome of the initial hearing	Number
- Parole applications deferred	0
- Parole applications refused	0
- Parole applications granted	0
- Prisoner declined parole	0
No. of initial LIFERS applications made in 2019	0

SUBSEQUENT LIFERS APPLICATIONS

Outcome of subsequent hearings	Number	%
- Subsequent application granted	3	37.5%
- Subsequent application denied	0	40.0%
- Subsequent applications deferred to 2019	5	62.5%
- Subsequent applications deferred to 2020	0	0.0%
No. of subsequent LIFERS applications made in 2019	8	100%

NUMBER OF PAROLE APPLICATIONS DETERMINED (GRANTED / REFUSED IN 2019)

Matter Type	Grand Total
Parole Applications determined (granted or refused)	165
Subsequent applications determined (granted or refused)	110
Grand Total	275

ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE IN 2019

	Number
- Number of applicants who became eligible for parole in 2019	231
- Number of 2019 applications adjourned to 2020	47
- Number of applicants who became eligible for parole in 2019 and were granted parole in 2019 (as opposed to deferred applications from 2018)	87
- Number of 2019 applicants granted parole and revoked in 2019	30

NUMBER OF PRISONERS WHO DECLINED AND WHY*

Reason	Number	%
Fear of revocation – Parole conditions too difficult	66	60.5%
Obtained employment with the Sentenced to a Job Program	7	6.5%
- Other	31	28.5%
Wants to attend work camp / employment	1	0.9%
Wishes to reduce security rating	4	3.6%
Grand Total	109	100%

**Noting that reasons for declining parole are vast, varied and often overlap*

PAROLE ORDERS VARIED

No. of parole orders varied	86
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REVOCATIONS

No. of reports received by Parole Board documenting non-compliance	199
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Outcomes

- Parole revoked by the Board	8
- Parole revoked out of session (Chairman)	73
- Warning letter sent	35
- Stern warning letter sent	3
- No Action	19
- Amend parole order	10
- Deferred	4
- COMMIT sanction	47

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATIONS

No. of freedom of information applications	8
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PAROLE ORDERS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER JURISDICTION

Interstate Parole Orders Transferred to the NT	3
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Total	3
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PERIOD ON PAROLE PRIOR TO REVOCATION - CONDITIONAL AND RE-OFFENDING 2019

Time on parole prior to revocation	Conditional	Re-offend	Grand Total
<3 months	35	1	36
3-6 months	11	0	11
6-12 months	16	0	16
1-3 years	9	1	10
Revoked prior to release			8
Grand Total	79	2	81



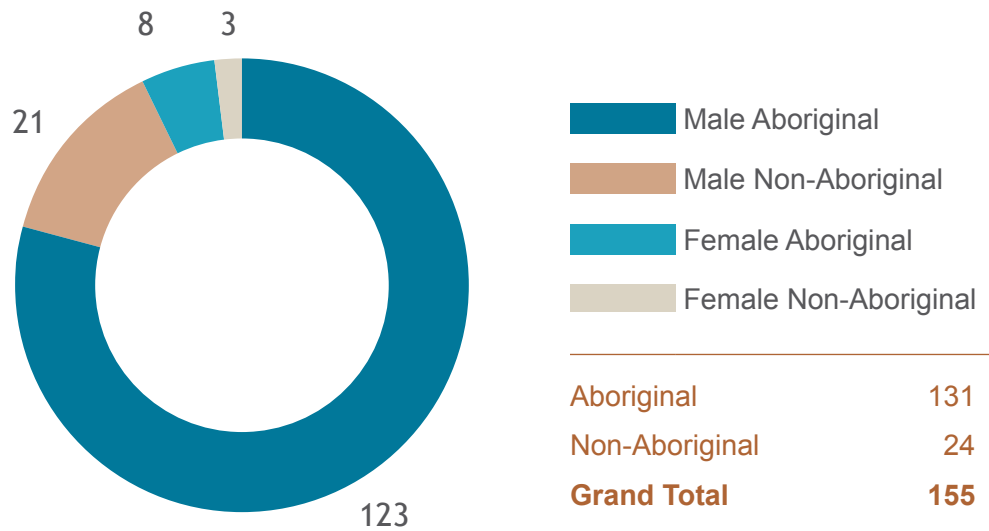
ADDITIONAL PAROLE CONDITIONS SET

	Granted Parole	Amended Parole Order
Non-consumption of alcohol	143	54
Breath Testing	143	53
Non-consumption of dangerous drugs	115	75
Urinalysis	112	70
Reside at particular address or community / outstation	52	16
Attend Treatment/Program	110	39
General assessment, treatment and/or counselling	119	66
Specific assessment, treatment and/or counselling*	24	7
Nil Contact – Victim	40	20
Nil threats – Victim	49	12
Nil Contact – Children	2	3
Curfew	123	62
Available for checks	59	35
Nil possession of firearm	81	46
Not engage in conduct that results in DVO	75	24
Electronic Monitoring	126	66
COMMIT parole / Sanctions Regime	40	42
Other **	51	

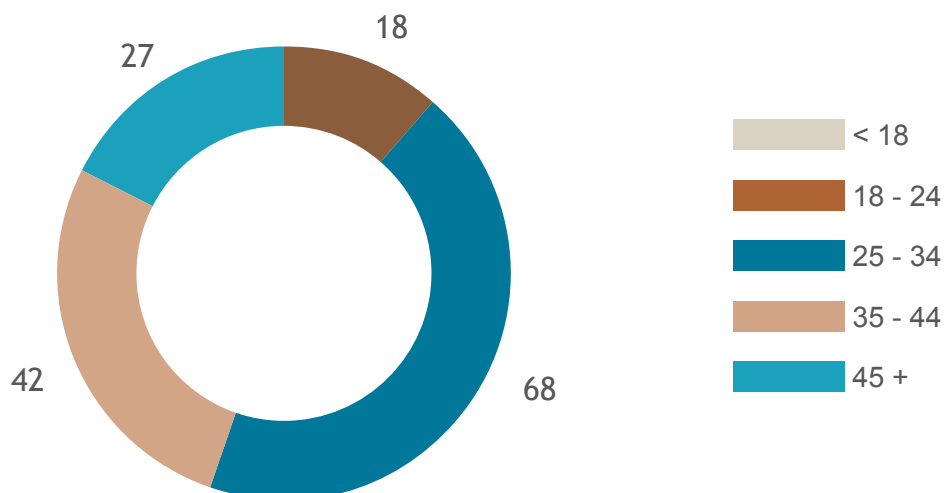
* **Includes:** mental health counselling, specific anger management, drug and alcohol counselling, Family Violence Program

** **Includes:** not visit specified communities; comply with medication regime; not drive a motor vehicle; maintain employment;

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRISONERS RELEASED TO PAROLE DURING 2019 BY SEX AND ABORIGINALITY

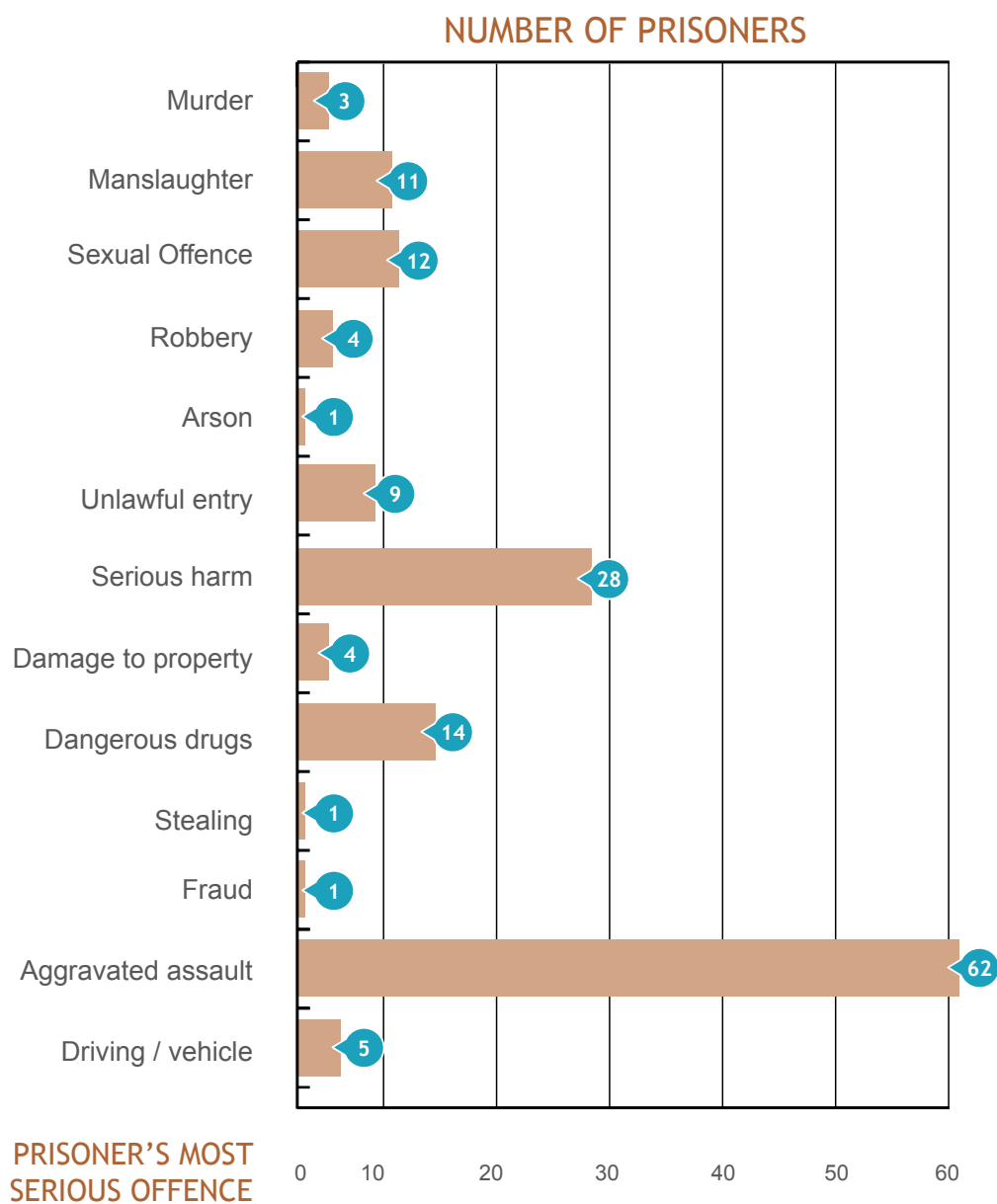


PRISONERS RELEASED TO PAROLE DURING 2019 BY AGE



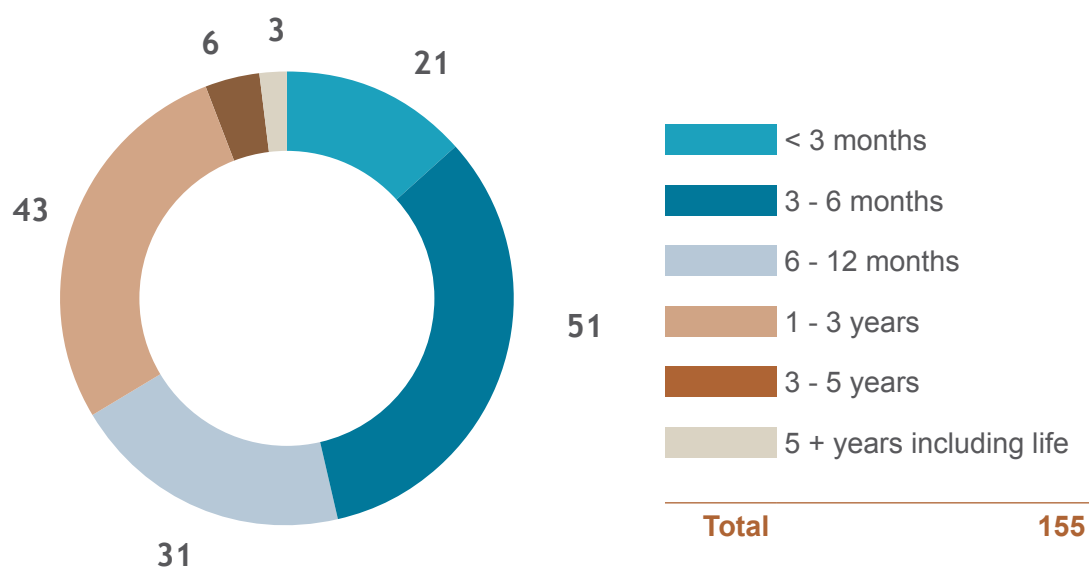


PRISONERS RELEASED TO PAROLE DURING 2019 BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENCE CATEGORY

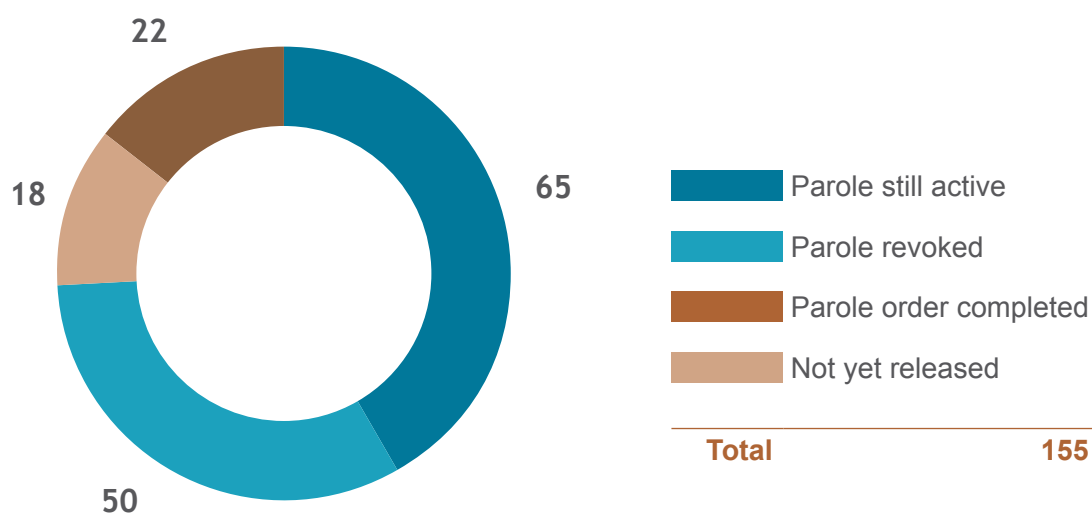


Grand Total: 155

LENGTH OF PAROLE PERIOD FOR PRISONERS RELEASED TO PAROLE DURING 2019

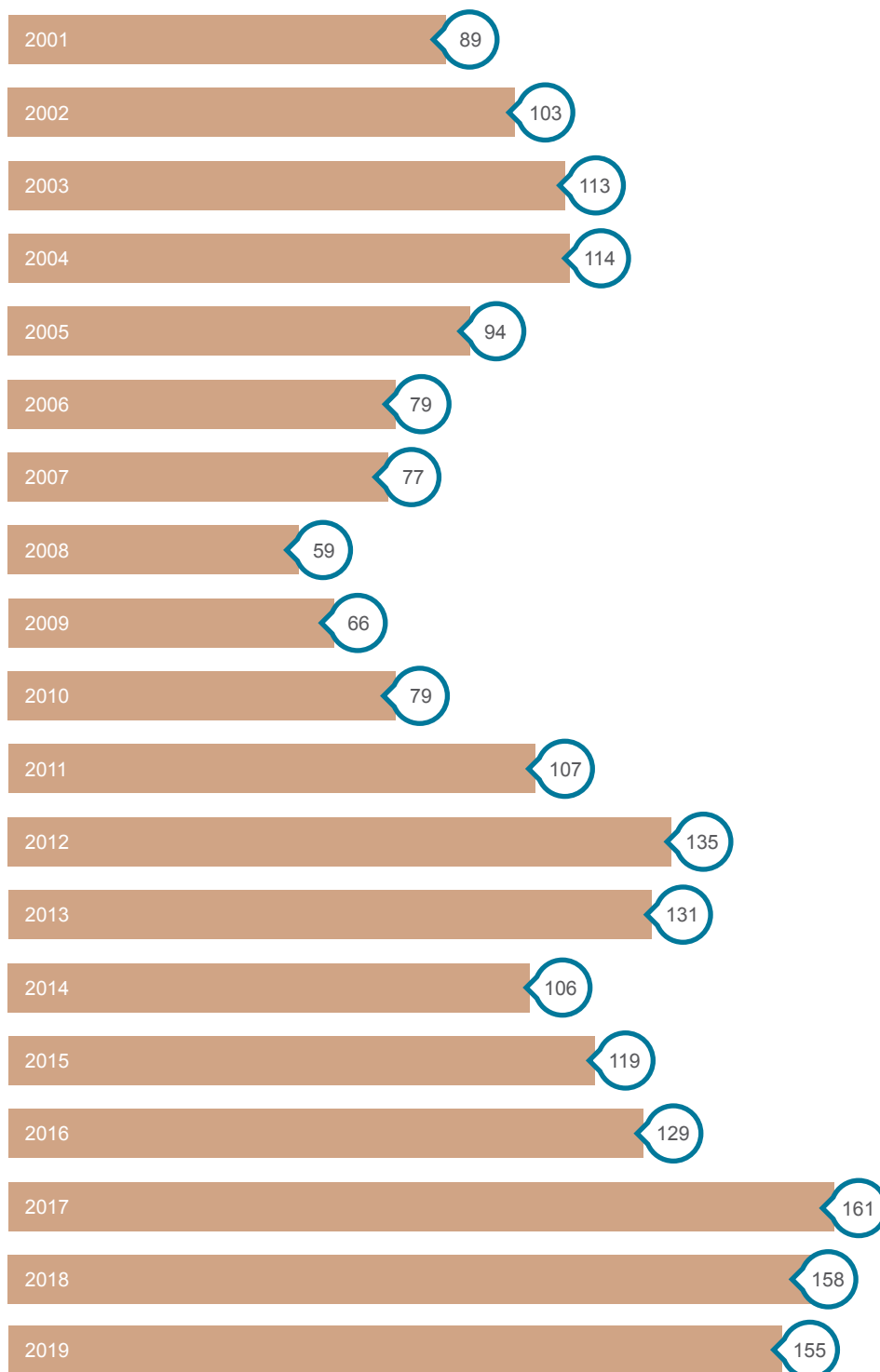


OUTCOMES OF PRISONERS GRANTED PAROLE DURING 2019 AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

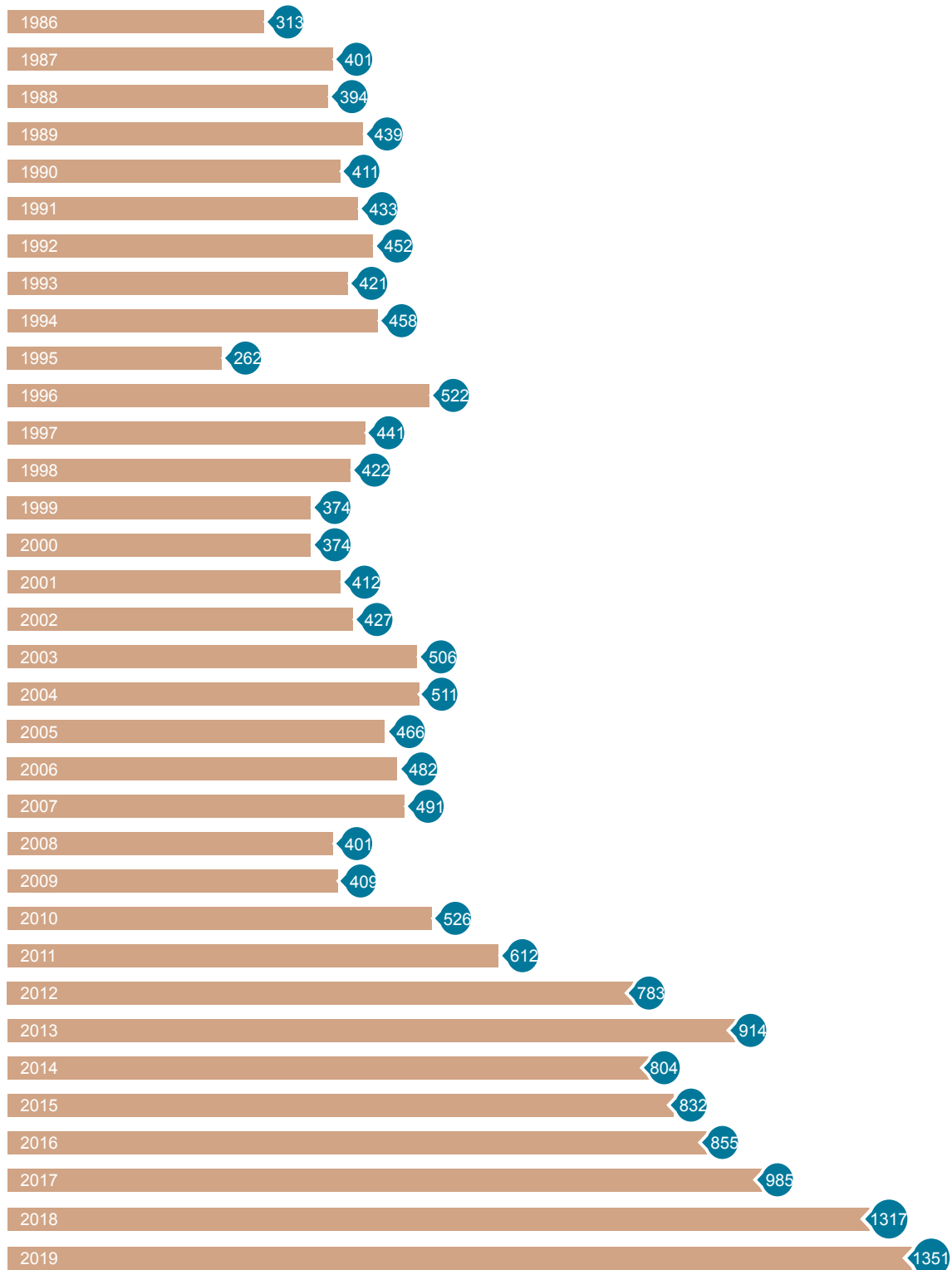




PRISONERS RELEASED TO PAROLE 2001 - 2019



ANNUAL TOTAL OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS 1986 - 2019





PAROLE BOARD
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



PAROLE BOARD

OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY





PAROLE BOARD

OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

CONTACT DETAILS

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