



2015

ANNUAL REPORT



Justice
State Parole Authority

CONTENTS

<i>Chairperson’s Foreword</i>	3	ACTIVITY	15
<i>Secretary’s Review</i>	6	Cases Considered	15
FUNCTION	8	Parole Ordered	16
Purpose of Parole	8	Parole Refused	16
SPA vs Court Based Orders	9	Parole Revoked	17
Who We Are	9	Parole - Other Matters	18
What We Do	9	Serious Offenders	21
How We Do It	10	Appeals	22
What We Consider	10	Home Detention Orders	23
Victim’s Interest	11	Periodic Detention Orders	23
Serious Offenders	11	Intensive Correction Orders	24
Periodic Detention and Intensive Correction Orders	12	MEMBERSHIP	25
Manifest Injustice	12	Membership	25
Suspension of Parole Orders	12	The Secretariat	31
Parole Supervision	13	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	32
How Orders are Revoked	13		
2014 Snapshot	14		

Key to Common Acronyms

CSNSW	Corrective Services NSW
SPA	State Parole Authority
SORC	Serious Offenders Review Council
ICO	Intensive Correction Order



Justice
State Parole Authority

The Hon. David Elliott, MP
Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services,
and Minister for Veterans Affairs
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

In accordance with Section 192 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act, 1999*, I have the pleasure in submitting to you, for the information of Parliament, the report of the NSW State Parole Authority for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J R T Wood'.

J R T WOOD, AO, QC

30 June 2016

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Chairperson's Foreword

The system of parole is a pivotal part of the criminal justice system, applying both to offenders who are released pursuant to court based orders, having been sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years or less, or pursuant to parole orders made by the Authority in respect of offenders receiving longer sentences. For offenders receiving sentences of more than 3 years the Authority is responsible for the making of orders for release on parole.

The Authority is responsible in relation to each group of offenders for deciding whether to revoke parole consequent upon any breach of conditions attaching to their parole order, and for deciding whether, upon further review, to rescind the revocation or after a period in custody to re-parole the offender.

In relation to all of its decisions, the Authority acts in accordance with the public interest, taking into account, among other factors, the safety of the community, the likelihood of the offender being able to adapt to a normal lawful community, and the need to maintain confidence in the administration of justice.

Without the availability of parole, there would be little incentive for offenders to work towards their release through participation in the offence specific programs that are available in custody, or through maintenance of appropriate behaviour including participation in prison industries, allowing their progression through the classification system.

The revised suite of programs is now widely available within Correctional Centres includes two sex offender programs, CUBIT and CORE Moderate; a Violent Offender Treatment Program (VOTP) and an Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP).

Offenders with lesser risks, but for whom treatment pre-release is desirable, can be required to participate in the EQUIPS suite that includes a preparation program (Foundation), as well as Addictions, Aggression and Domestic Abuse Programs.

The preference of the Authority is for the offender to complete custodial based programs, where available, and where the length of their sentence or classification permits. In other cases it will expect to have information as to a post release plan that can address participation in post release programs, psychological or psychiatric counselling and treatment, and vocational training and employment.

“ In relation to all of its decisions, the Authority acts in accordance with the public interest, taking into account, among other factors, the safety of the community, the likelihood of the offender being able to adapt to a normal lawful community, and the need to maintain confidence in the administration of justice.”

In the case of the more serious offenders, particularly those serving lengthy sentences, the Authority pays particular attention to their institutional behaviour and progression through the classification system to the point where they can participate in supervised offsite activities and community projects, and ultimately to external works release, day leave and weekend leave. It does expect participation of this kind to occur before it makes a parole release decision, as graduated exposure back into the community is considered by it to be of paramount importance. Otherwise the risks of institutionalisation and of failure to cope with a world that will have moved on from the time their imprisonment commenced is too great.

The Authority is assisted in its work through the availability to it of the offender's criminal history, psychological and psychiatric reviews and risk assessments, as well as the detailed pre-release or balance of parole reports provided by Community Corrections. So far as these reports are directed toward parole release, they provide advice in relation to the offender's institutional behaviour and program participation, as well as in relation to the availability of matters such as suitable accommodation and potential employment. The advice which is given contains a recommendation as to whether release is or is not appropriate, as well as details of an appropriate post release plan.

For the more serious offenders whose case comes within the jurisdiction of the Serious Offenders Review Council (SORC), the Authority must take into account the advice of the Council as to whether or not it is appropriate for it to consider parole. The Council has the advantage of seeing these offenders at relevant intervals and, of making recommendations to the Commissioner in relation to classification and prison placement.

The Authority must act in accordance with the advice of SORC unless it is satisfied that exceptional circumstance exist that would justify a departure from it. If the Authority forms an intention to grant parole, the matter is stood

over to allow the State represented by the Commissioner to make a submission which the Authority must then take into account. The Commissioner also has the right to make a submission, opposing release for other offenders, the possibility of this occurring being flagged before the time for parole consideration arrives. In such a case if the Authority makes a provisional decision to grant parole, the matter is again stood over to allow the Commissioner to make a submission.

The Authority is advised of breaches of parole by Community Corrections, and is similarly advised of the breach of Home Detention orders and Intensive Corrections orders. Where it elects to make a revocation order, the offender has a right of review which is similarly entertained to the right of review which applies for those cases where parole is refused.

It can be seen from the foregoing that parole and revocation decisions are made by the Authority in circumstances where it has a detailed understanding of the case and advice from those who have dealt directly with the offender in custody or in the community. As a consequence it applies a professional approach to its work by ensuring that it delivers transparency, due process and fairness in its decision making work in the interests of the community. Reasons for its decision are given, and unlike some of the other jurisdictions, a review process is available to the offender and the State.

The Authority has had a particularly challenging year, as a result of significant increases in the prison population and in the number of offenders who are the subject of court based orders whether they be Home Detention orders, Intensive Correction orders or Parole orders, and of orders made by the Authority. Some 2,579 parolees were subject to revocation and some 973 applications for release on parole were determined.

Of particular concern has been the incident of ICE related breaches and repeat domestic violence offenders while on parole and the shortage of residential rehabilitation beds. The latter difficulty has been compounded by the limited number of facilities that will now accept offenders from custody, or offenders who are on opiate replacement therapy, or whose criminal record includes sexual offending. Detoxification and residential rehabilitation centres are regarded as providing critical tools in reducing the incidence of drug addiction and consequently repeat drug related offending.

The Authority notes with satisfaction the considerable assistance offered through the HASI Plus Partnership, Housing NSW, the Statewide Disability Service, Justice Health Connections, and the Initial Transition Service in securing suitable accommodation and connection to services for those offenders with special needs or limited family supports. In the absence of stable accommodation and ongoing support and supervision, the path back from custody can be very difficult.

The Authority remains of the view that the public interest is better served, in the vast majority of cases, by the offender having a period of parole supervision and support, rather than by requiring the sentence to be served out in full with little available to the offender after release.

I note that in October 2015, Judge Barr, Lloyd Walker, Hamed Baqaie, Peter Walsh, Robert Cosman and I attended the Australasian Paroling Authorities Conference in Adelaide, which provided a useful opportunity for learning of any initiatives adopted by other Authorities. Hamed Baqaie and I also attended the 2015 Association Paroling Authorities (APAI) Annual Training Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

The composition of the Authority underwent some changes during the year under review. The members who completed their term or resigned were Cr Douglas Eaton OAM, Mr Barrie East, Ms Katie Fullilove, Mr Yair Miller and Mr Ronald Woodham. The Authority very much appreciates their valuable commitment and contribution to the work of the Authority over a number of years.

A number of new appointments were made. They were Ms Peta Drake, Ms Rhonda Booby, Mr Donald Sword and Mr Stuart Hemmings. There were also a number of re-appointments. They were Mr Allan Moore, Ms Martha Jabour, Mr Rod Harvey, Mr Lloyd Walker and Ms Susan Carter.

The Authority does note the sudden death during the year of a former Deputy Chairman, Judge Terence Christie QC whose dedication and contribution of over 10 years was highly valuable.

I extend my appreciation to my judicial colleagues, Judge David Freeman, Judge Paul Cloran, Mr Allan Moore and The Honourable Graham Barr QC for their hard work and conscientious attention to their duties. Similarly, I thank the Official and Community Members who are able to bring a wide range of views and professional experience to assist the Authority in its decisions.

Finally, the Secretariat under the valuable leadership of Robert Cosman and Amy Manuell has continued to provide the excellent service and skills, the availability of which has made our work so much more satisfactory. They have been assisted throughout by a truly excellent staff which has managed a burgeoning workload with great professionalism.

J R T WOOD
Chairperson

Secretary's Review

“The year 2015 was again a busy period for the Authority with the number of matters considered at a record level. Overall, 15,601 matters were considered by the Authority in 2015 compared to 13,760 the previous year.”

I am pleased to present the Secretary's Report for 2015.

In acknowledging the efforts of the hardworking staff of the Secretariat of the State Parole Authority I would like, in particular, to record my thanks and appreciation to my deputy, Ms Amy Manuell, the Deputy Superintendent Nigel Lloyd, and Senior Administration Officer, Ms Krista Jimenez.

For the last 3 years the Annual Report of the State Parole Authority has been produced by Krista and her efforts are highly commendable.

All officers in the Secretariat have made a substantial contribution in the administrative support of the Parole Authority. The senior officers, team leaders, submission and reviews officers together with the support staff have successfully managed an ever increasing workload. I record my sincere appreciation for their efforts.

I again take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the members of the Parole Authority in general and in particular the Chairperson, The Honourable James Wood AO QC. As in previous years I record my respect and admiration for the hard work and diligence of the members.

The year 2015 was again a busy period for the Authority with the number of matters considered at a record level. Overall, 15,601 matters were considered by the Authority in 2015 compared to 13,760 the previous year.

The sentencing option, Intensive Corrections Orders, continues to increase in the community and in 2015, 443 of these orders were revoked compared to 359 the previous year.

In 2015 there were 481 more offenders released on court-based parole in NSW than in 2014, with the total in 2014 of 5,084 rising to 5,625. The number of Parole Authority parole orders made also rose from 963 in 2014 to 973 in 2015.

Another indicator of the increased work load was the number of matters heard via Audio/Video Link in the public hearings increased from 2,716 in 2014 to 3,753 in 2015.

The statistics demonstrate the commitment of the Secretariat staff, who have competently managed an ever increasing volume of work with the same numbers of officers since 2007, and they should be very proud of their efforts.

All members of the Authority attended a training day on 1 July 2015 held at the Mercure Hotel in Broadway. The agenda included presentations from Jason Hainsworth, Director, Community Corrections Strategy; Jayson Ware, Director, Offender Services and Programs; and Chief Inspector Hamed Baqaie.

The Chairperson, Justice Wood and an official member, Chief Inspector Hamed Baqaie, represented the Parole Authority at the 2015 Annual Training Conference of the Association of Paroling Authorities International held in Columbus, Ohio, USA in May 2015.

The 2015 Asia Pacific Conference of Parole Authorities was held in Adelaide, South Australia in October 2015. The theme was "Community Safety – A Multi-Agency Approach". The Parole Authority was represented by James Wood, Graham Barr, Hamed Baqaie, Lloyd Walker, Peter Walsh, Amy Manuell and Robert Cosman.

It was decided at this meeting that the next conference will be held in Sydney in October 2017. It is also planned that the NSW State Parole Authority hosts a meeting of Chairpersons and Executive Officers of Asia Pacific Parole Authorities in October 2016.

Five community members left the Authority at the expiration of their appointments during the year. They were Ron Woodham, Barrie East, Katie Fullilove, Yair Miller and Doug Eaton. I thank them for their contribution and wish them well.

A long term and highly respected community member, Mr Ken Moroney AO APM, resigned from the Parole Authority just before the end of the year. His valuable experience, insight and knowledge will be sorely missed.

I congratulate five members who were re-appointed for a further term: Allan Moore, Lloyd Walker, Susan Carter, Martha Jabour, and Rod Harvey. I also congratulate and welcome four new members: Pete Drake, Donald Sword, Rhonda Booby and Stuart Hemmings.

The members and staff of the Parole Authority and Secretariat were saddened by the passing in 2015 of two former members,

Judge Terence Christie QC and John Whelan OAM. Our sympathy and thoughts go to their families and friends. Another sad occasion for the Authority was the passing of Bev Moroney, wife of Ken Moroney. I extend to Ken and his family, condolences on behalf of all members.

As in previous years, the support and assistance provided to me by David Huskins, the Director of State-wide Administration of Sentences and Orders, Corrective Services NSW and Luke Grant, Assistant Commissioner, Strategic Policy and Planning, Corrective Services NSW is sincerely appreciated.

I also acknowledge the professional assistance and contribution of various stake-holders including the Commissioner and staff of Corrective Services NSW and in particular the officers of the Community Corrections Division; the Minister of Corrective Services and the staff of his Office; the Secretary and staff of the Department of Justice; the Crown Solicitors Office; Prisoners Legal Service; and the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Robert Cosman
Director & Secretary

THE PURPOSE OF PAROLE

Parole is the release of an offender from custody to serve the balance of their sentence in the community.

The purpose of parole is to supervise and support the reintegration of offenders before the end of their total sentence while providing a continuing measure of protection to the community.

Parole does not mean that offenders are free, as an offender is still considered to be subject to their sentence.

Release to parole is not leniency or a reward for good behaviour, but an extension of the sentence that provides the opportunity to assist and monitor an offender's adaptation to a normal, lawful community life.

Parole serves the public interest by ensuring offenders are supervised and supported during reintegration, and reduces the likelihood of recidivism. It provides a more effective way of protecting the public than would a more sudden release of an offender at sentence expiry, without assistance and supervision.

As a bridge between custody and liberty, parole is a form of conditional release that involves a thorough review of information and assessment of risk.

Parolees must abide by the conditions of their release. If the conditions of parole are not met, parole may be revoked and the offender returned to custody.

FUNCTION

Who we are

The NSW State Parole Authority (SPA) is an independent statutory authority governed primarily by the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*.

The SPA considers the release to parole of offenders who have total sentences of more than three years with a non-parole period.

What we do

The SPA's role is the protection of the community through determining whether offenders can be safely released into the community. The Parole Authority make decisions in relation to:

- ◆ the supervised, conditional release of offenders from custody
- ◆ the conditions of release
- ◆ the revoking of parole orders for non-compliance and return to custody
- ◆ the revoking, substituting or reinstating of periodic detention, home detention or intensive correction orders

State Parole Authority vs Court Based Orders

A non-parole period is a minimum term of imprisonment during which time an offender is not eligible to be released from a correctional centre to parole.

The NSW State Parole Authority (SPA) considers the release to parole of all offenders who have total sentences of more than three years with a non-parole period specified by the Court.

The Crimes (Sentencing Procedures) Act 1999 prescribes that if a court sentences an offender to a term of imprisonment of three years or less with a non parole period, they must issue a parole order and set the parole conditions. Dependent upon appropriate post release plans being approved by Community Corrections, an offender is released from custody 'automatically', i.e. at the expiration of the non-parole period.

How we do it

Release to parole is not an automatic right at the end of the non-parole period for all offenders. Section 135(1) of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* states that “the Parole Authority must not make a parole order for an offender unless it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that the release of the offender is appropriate in the public interest”.

The SPA considers at a private meeting whether or not an offender should be released on parole based on the written material provided by the relevant authorities.

If parole is granted, a parole order is issued and the offender is released on their eligibility date. In the case of serious offenders, the matter is adjourned to a public hearing to provide the opportunity for registered victims and the State to make submissions before a final decision is made.

If parole is refused, the offender is able to apply for a public hearing to review the decision where they can appear by audio/video link and be legally represented. If the offender declines a hearing, or does not convince the SPA that a hearing is warranted, the decision to refuse parole is confirmed.

When specifying reasons for refusing parole, great care is taken to include all the issues and concerns at the time of consideration so that the offender or their representative can fully address those issues at a public hearing.

The next time the offender is eligible for parole is the anniversary date of the earliest release date. If there is less than 12 months remaining on the offender’s sentence, they will be released on the date the sentence expires.

In rare cases, the release of an offender before the expiry of a sentence or non-parole period may also be considered if the offender is dying or there are other exceptional, extenuating circumstances.

What we consider

In reaching its decisions, the SPA considers the safety of the community, matters that affect the victims of the crime, factors that affect the offender and the intentions of the sentencing court.

It takes into account a broad range of material to determine if the offender is able to adapt to normal lawful community life. This includes:

- ◆ Nature of the offence/s
- ◆ Sentencing authority comments
- ◆ Offender’s criminal/supervision history
- ◆ Potential risk to the community and the offender
- ◆ Post-release plans
- ◆ Reports and recommendations from medical practitioners, psychiatrists and psychologists, if available
- ◆ Reports and recommendations from Community Corrections Officers
- ◆ Representations made by the victim/s or by persons representing victim/s
- ◆ Submissions by the offender’s support network (family/friends/potential employers or other relevant individuals)
- ◆ Representations made by the offender or others with an interest in the case

In all cases, strict conditions are imposed on the offender and additional conditions may be specifically tailored to address the management of the offender in the community. These may include:

- ◆ Assessment, treatment and testing for alcohol or drug addiction
- ◆ Assessment, treatment and counselling for medical, psychiatric or psychological issues
- ◆ Restricted contact with individuals
- ◆ Restrictions on places the offender is able to visit
- ◆ Attendance at personal development programs

Victims' interest

It is a fundamental belief of the New South Wales Government that victims should be treated with courtesy and compassion and respect for their rights and dignity.

The New South Wales Government enacted the *Victims Rights Act 1996* to establish the Charter of Victims Rights. This requires State Agencies to have regard to the Act in the administration of justice and other relevant affairs of the State.

The NSW Government enacted legislation now contained in the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* to establish the Victims Register which requires that victim submissions be taken into account when considering the release of an offender to parole.

Written notice is given to victims registered on the Victims' Register prior to the preliminary consideration of an offender's release. This is coordinated through the Victims' Register of CSNSW. Victims are then able to lodge a written submission and provide the Parole Authority with their input into the decision making process.

A registered victim of a serious offender also has an opportunity to make verbal or written submissions to the Parole Authority at the public review hearing before a final decision is made about the serious offender's release to parole. These victims are also entitled to access modified documents regarding an offender's efforts to address their offending behavior.

Serious offenders

Section 3 (1) of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* defines serious offenders and the Serious Offenders Review Council (SORC) is the statutory authority that is responsible for managing serious offenders as well as being the name given to an umbrella organisation with three sub-committees whose functions are not necessarily related to serious offenders.

One role of the Council is to provide advice to the State Parole Authority concerning the release on parole of serious offenders as they become eligible for release. Advising, in particular, whether or not it is appropriate for the inmate to be considered for release on parole by the Parole Authority [s.197(2) (b) of the Act].

Except in exceptional circumstances, the Parole Authority must not make a parole order for a serious offender unless the SORC advises that it is appropriate for the offender to be considered for release on parole [s.135(3) of the Act].

If the Parole Authority forms an intention to grant parole, the Parole Authority lists the matter for a public hearing. This allows for the State and/or registered victims to make submissions to the Parole Authority regarding the release of the offender prior to the Parole Authority granting parole or refusing parole.

Suspension of parole orders

If circumstances exist where a division of the Parole Authority cannot meet on a matter requiring urgent attention, the Commissioner of CSNSW may apply to a Judicial Member of the Parole Authority to suspend an offender's parole order and issue a warrant for their arrest and return to a correctional centre.

Such circumstances may occur when an offender presents as a serious and immediate risk and concerns exist that the offender will abscond, harm another person or commit an indictable offence.

A suspension order remains in force for up to 28 days after the offender is returned to custody. During this period, a full panel of the Parole Authority has the opportunity to review the situation and determine whether it is appropriate to revoke the parole order or allow time for an inquiry to be conducted into the allegations that led to the suspension.

Manifest injustice

Manifest injustice only applies to offenders who have been refused parole on the first occasion i.e. the earliest release date, sometimes known as their eligibility date. There is no such provision for parolees who have had their order revoked while on parole.

Upon an offender being refused release to parole, the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* states that parole consideration cannot occur for another 12 months.

Early consideration of a case may occur in circumstances prescribed by clause 223 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2014* and are matters that constitute manifest injustice. These include a decision to refuse parole being based on incorrect or incomplete information, or an offender meeting requirements that were previously beyond their control such as the completion of relevant programs, external leave, availability of suitable accommodation, health services or the withdrawing of further charges.

Periodic detention and intensive correction orders

On 1 October 2010, Periodic Detention ceased being a sentencing option in NSW and Intensive Correction Orders were substituted for this sentencing option. An offender sentenced to a Periodic Detention Order prior to 1 October 2010 continues to serve this order to completion.

Intensive Correction Orders (ICO) are a community based sentence of two years or less (without a parole period), that involves supervision of an offender by Community Corrections and requires offenders to complete a compulsory work component.

Parole supervision

Parole is the supervised and supported reintegration of offenders in the community prior to their total sentence expiring, while also providing a continuing measure of protection to the community.

Parole does not mean that offenders are free, as an offender is still considered to be subject to their sentence. Release to parole is not leniency or a reward for good behaviour, but an extension of the sentence that provides the opportunity to assist and monitor an offender's adaption to a normal, lawful community life.

Parole serves the public interest by ensuring offenders are supervised and supported during reintegration, and reduces the likelihood of recidivism. It provides a more effective way of protecting the public than would a more sudden release of an offender at sentence expiry, without assistance and supervision.

As a bridge between custody and liberty in the community, parole is a form of conditional release that involves a thorough review of information and assessment of risk. Parolees must abide by the conditions of their release. If the conditions of parole are not met, parole may be revoked and the offender returned to custody.

Community Corrections are responsible for the supervision of parolees in New South Wales.

How orders are revoked

The SPA considers the revocation of parole orders, including those issued by courts, if parolees fail to comply with conditions of their order. It may consider the revocation of a court-based parole order before release if the offender shows an inability to adapt to normal lawful community life or does not have suitable post release accommodation. It is also responsible for revocation of home detention orders and intensive correction orders upon breaches of conditions.

If an order is revoked, a public hearing is held to review the decision. When the revocation of a parole order is confirmed, the offender is not eligible for re-release for 12 months from the date they returned to custody; or at the end of the sentence if the balance of parole remaining is less than 12 months.

When the revocation of a home detention, periodic detention or intensive correction order is confirmed, the detainee remains in fulltime custody but can be reinstated, subject to a suitable assessment, after serving at least three months in the case of periodic detention and home detention orders and one month for intensive correction orders. Alternatively, the balance of periodic detention or intensive correction orders may be served, if approved, by way of home detention.

2015 SNAPSHOT

Items	2013	2014	2015	%
Matters considered	12,045	13,760	15,601	13.38
SPA Meeting Days	319	318	319	0.31
- Private	100	106	100	-5.66
- Public	169**	137	142	3.65
- Secretary Sitting	50	51	50	-1.96
- ICO/HD/PD Division	-	24	27	12.50
ICO Revoked	283	359	443	23.40
Reinstatement Ordered	58	115	182	58.26
Reinstatement Declined	36	25	16	-36.00
Overseas Travel Approved	10	14	14	0.00
Total Parole Releases	5,574	6,047	6,598	9.11
- SPA Orders	971	963	973	1.04
- Court Based Orders	4,603	5,084	5,625	10.64
Total Parole Refused	340	372	297	-20.16
Total Parole Orders Revoked	2,334	2,527	2,579	2.06
- SPA Orders	492	451	470	4.21
- Court Based Orders	1,842	2,076	2,109	1.59
Total Revocations Rescinded	346	407	410	0.74
Variations to Parole Orders	198	241	193	-19.92
SPA Formal Warnings	1,799	1,616	1,145	-29.15
State Submissions	15	10	22	120.00
Victim's Submissions	112	101	98	-2.97
Overseas Travel Approved	25	21	24	14.29
Interstate Transfers to NSW	30	38	33	-13.16
Matters heard via AVL	2,451	2,716	3,753	38.18
Appeals	10	19	14	-26.32

** Included ICO/HD/PD Division. It should be noted that the 2013 Annual Report had included these in public meeting calculations.

ACTIVITY

Cases Considered

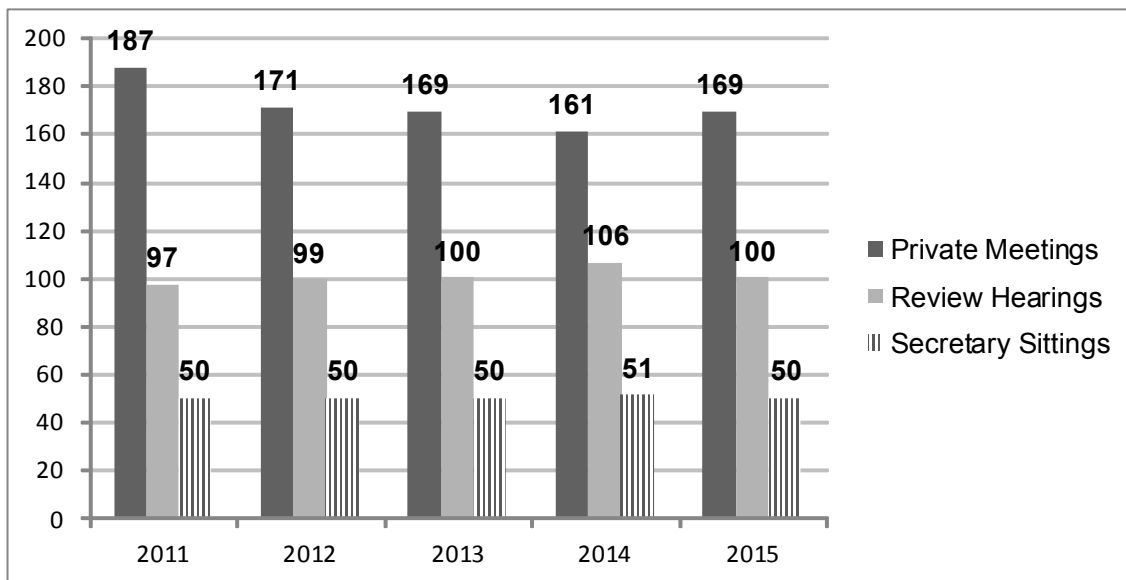
The SPA meets weekly to deal with its significant workload. Each week there are two private meetings (principally for consideration of release to parole and revocation of parole), three public review hearings (to review decisions) and two to three additional public hearings per month to specifically deal with ICO matters.

In the case of private meetings and review hearings, the matters are distributed to the members one week prior to the meeting for reading and consideration.

A single matter is often considered on more than one occasion. This is particularly the case with public review hearings for the refusal or revocation of parole, and also where a matter is held over for the receipt of additional reports or to await the finalisation of ongoing court matters.

In 2015, 15,601 cases were considered over 319 meetings.

There were 50 secretary sittings to make various administrative decisions for cases under consideration. Examples of these include the registration of interstate parole orders and standing a case over to a future date to allow for a report submission or the finalisation of court results.



SPA Volume 2011 -2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cases Considered	11,093	11,422	12,045	13,760	15,601
Meeting days	334	320	319	318	319

Parole Ordered

The SPA ordered release to parole in 973 cases in 2015 representing 14.75% of the 6,598 releases in the 2015 calendar year. Of the 973 matters, two offenders were granted parole pursuant to Section 160 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act, 1999*, which permits parole to be granted before the expiry of the non-parole period if the offender is dying or there are other exceptional circumstances.

The balance of 5,625 releases were court based orders subject to an automatic release from custody.

Parole Ordered Totals 2011 - 2015

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1,035	1,046	971	963	973

Parole Refused

In 2015, parole was refused in 297 cases, a 20.16% decrease from the 372 matters refused in 2014.

The SPA does not automatically release offenders to parole at the end of the non-parole period for sentences in excess of 3 years. Section 135 (1) of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*, states that “the Parole Authority must not make a parole order for an offender unless it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that the release of the offender is appropriate in the public interest”.

Parole Refused Totals 2011 - 2015

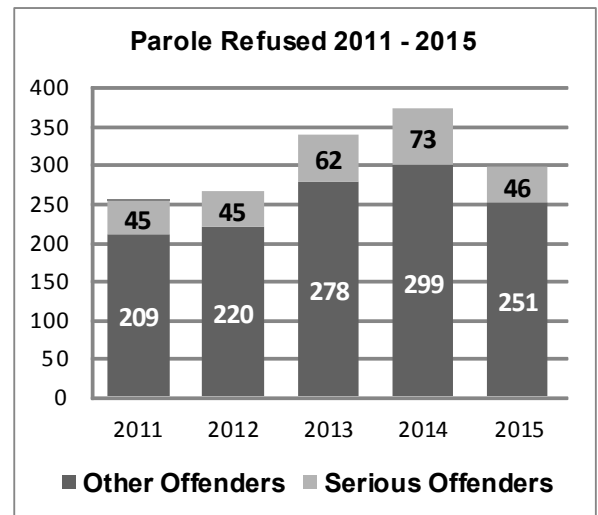
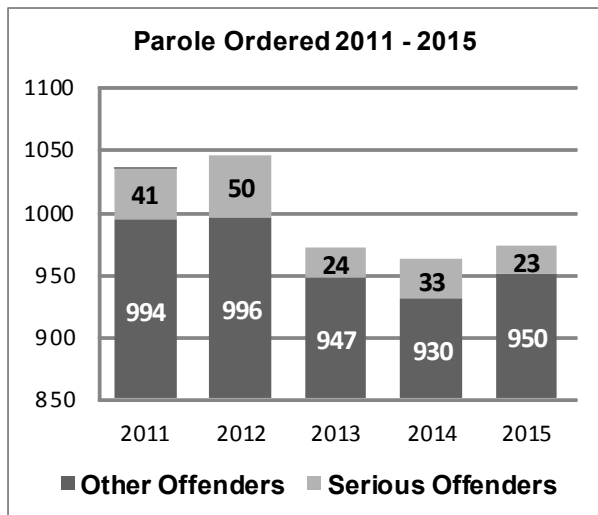
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
254	265	340	372	297

Serious offenders

Of the 973 parole orders determined by SPA in 2015, 23 parole orders were made in relation to 22 serious offenders. It is noted that one of these decisions occurred upon the Supreme Court directing the matter be referred back to the SPA for a redetermination and parole was again granted. There were no serious offenders granted parole pursuant to Section 160 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*.

Serious offenders

Of the 297 parole matters refused by SPA in 2015, 46 cases were related to serious offenders.



Parole Revocations

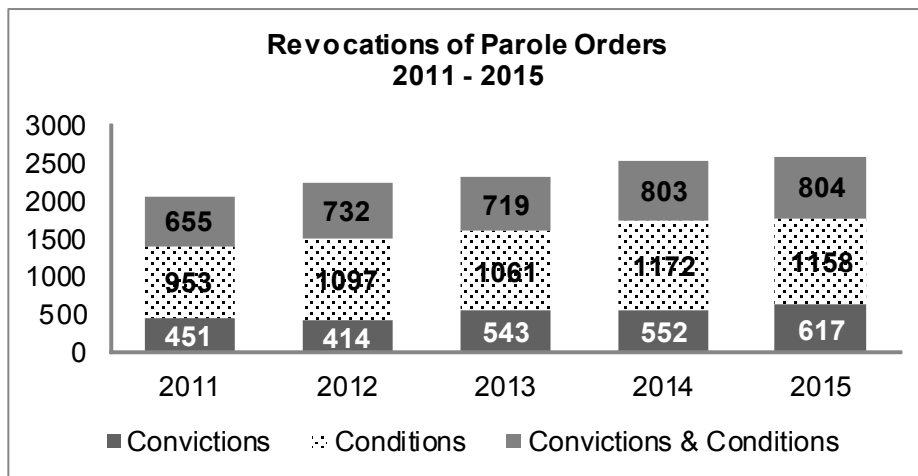
The SPA revoked a total of 2,579 parole orders in 2015 of which approximately 81.76% were court based orders.

Of these, 1,158 were the result of a breach of conditions other than the commission of further offences. These breaches included the failure to maintain contact with Community Corrections, changing address without permission, leaving the State without permission, failure to attend for appointments with service providers and failure to abstain from drug and/or alcohol use.

The total number of breaches that were as a result of outstanding charges or further convictions was 617. While 804 revocations were for both a breach of conditions and further conviction/s.

Serious Offenders Revocations

Seven serious offenders had their parole order revoked given breach of conditions that were not related to re-offending. Five serious offenders had their parole order revoked for outstanding charges. While 804 offenders were revoked for breach of supervision conditions and further conviction/s, only four were serious offenders.

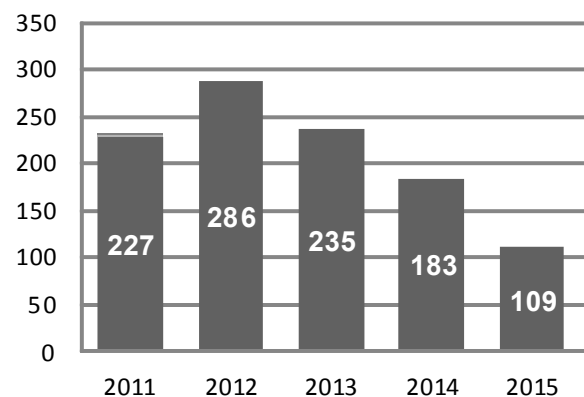


Parole Revocations Prior to Release

The SPA may also consider the revocation of a court-based parole order before release if the offender demonstrates by some action in custody that they are unable to adapt to a normal lawful community life upon release; they do not have suitable post release accommodation or do not wish to be released at their earliest release date.

In 2015, SPA revoked 109 parole orders prior to release, approximately 85% of these revocations were court-based orders.

Parole Revocations Prior to Release 2011 - 2015



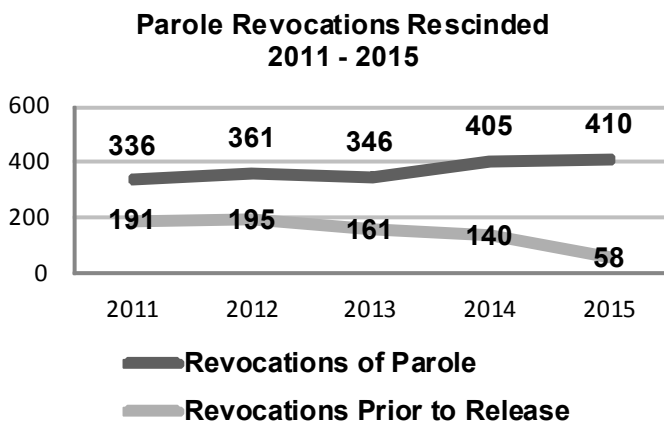
Parole Revocations Rescinded

Once an offender is returned to custody on a parole revocation warrant, they have the right of review in a public hearing before the SPA.

This provides the opportunity for SPA to determine whether incorrect information was relied upon on the initial consideration of the case or whether there are circumstances that would support rescission and the offender's return to the community.

In 2015, 410 parole revocations were rescinded and a further 58 revocations of parole prior to release were also rescinded in 2015.

Of the 410 parole rescissions, five of these related to serious offenders.

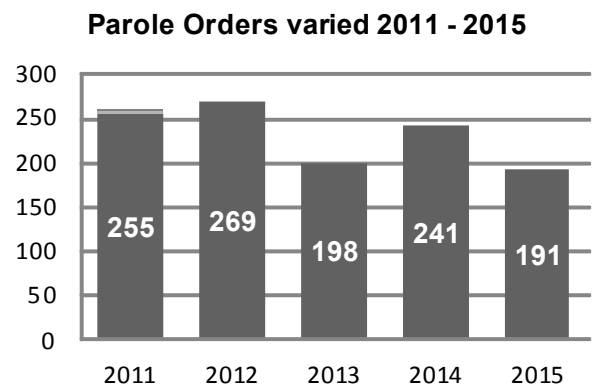


Variation to Parole Orders

In some instances, it is necessary to vary the conditions of a parole order to ensure the conditions are relevant and appropriate to the offender, or to assist with the supervision of a parolee.

In most cases, Community Corrections request that the conditions of a court based parole order be varied in relation to attendance at relevant programs. Orders can also be varied to restrict contact between offenders and victims.

191 variations to parole orders were made in 2015, 50% of parole order variations related to court based parole orders.



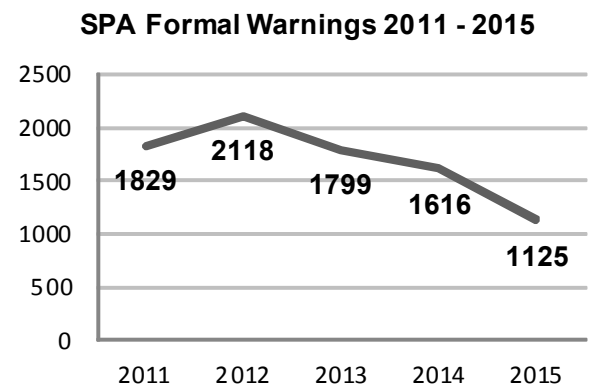
Warnings

Formal warnings are issued to parolees who are at risk of having their parole orders revoked for breaching their conditions.

Parolees are advised in writing by the SPA that their continued failure to comply with the conditions of parole may result in revocation of their parole order.

1,125 SPA warnings were issued in 2015.

Serious offenders made up two of the 1,125 warnings issued in 2015.



Overseas Travel

Parolees must seek approval from SPA prior to travelling overseas, providing evidence for the request. Applications for travel should also be supported by a report from Community Corrections indicating the parolee's compliance with the parole conditions and stability in the community. It is unlikely that such stability could be demonstrated in less than six months from the date of release to parole. In general, travel for recreational purposes is not approved.

In 2015, the SPA considered 32 applications for overseas travel and of these, 24 were approved, while the other eight applications were declined. All parolees who travelled overseas returned and reported as directed.

Serious Offenders

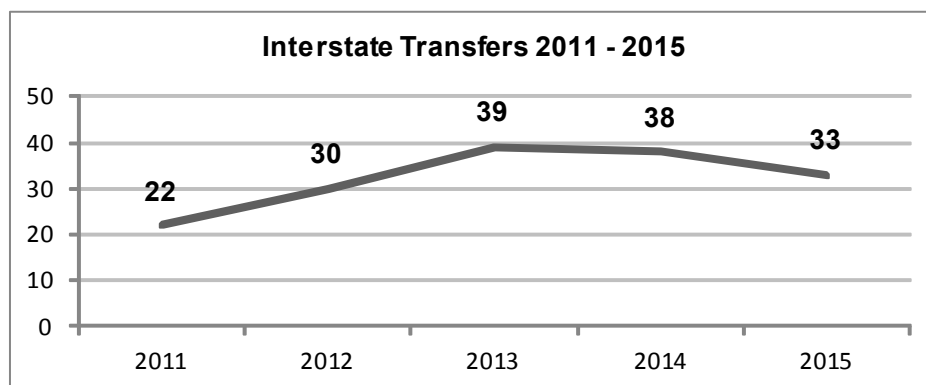
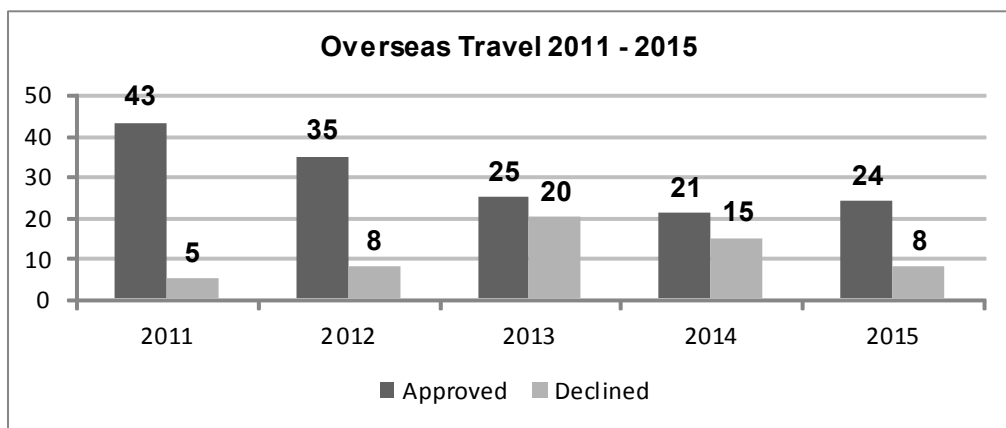
Of the 32 applications for overseas travel, two applications from serious offenders were received by the SPA. Both applications were approved.

Interstate Transfers

Complementary State and Territory legislation and protocols provide for the transfer of State and Territory parole orders for reasons such as family responsibilities or to pursue work or study opportunities.

Under the complementary scheme the parole order, once registered, ceases to have effect in the original State or Territory. The laws of the receiving State or Territory then apply as if the sentence of imprisonment had been imposed, served, and the parole order issued, in that jurisdiction.

Where the State or Territory offender breaches the conditions of parole, the order can be legally enforced in the receiving jurisdiction. There were 33 registrations of interstate parole orders in NSW in 2015.



State Submissions

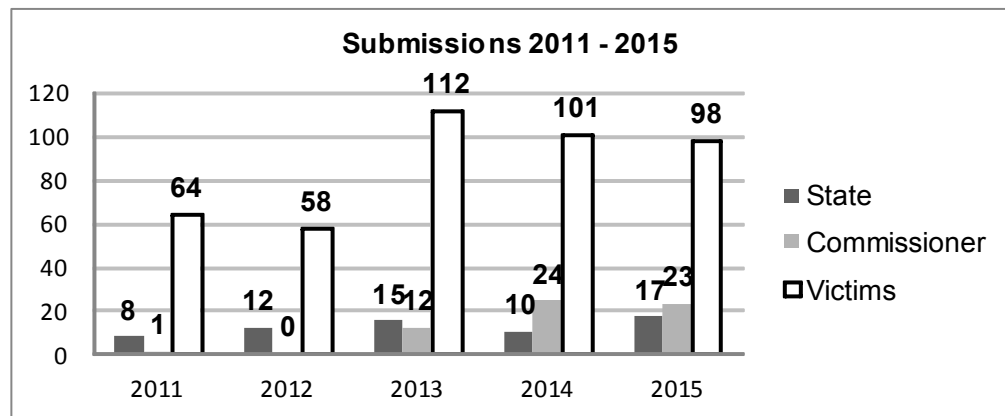
Section 153 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*, provides the opportunity for the State to make submissions to the SPA at any time concerning the release on parole of a serious offender. There were 22 submissions received for 17 serious offenders in 2015.

Commissioner's Submission

Section 141A of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* provides the opportunity for the Commissioner of CSNSW to make a submission concerning the release on parole of any offender. There were 23 submissions received for 18 offenders in 2015.

Victim's Submission

The *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* gives victims of crime the right to make submissions to the SPA when it is considering a decision about an offender that could result in release to parole. Written notice is given to victims registered on the Victims' Register prior to the preliminary consideration of an offender's release. 98 submissions were received from registered victims in 2015. 29 submissions were in relation to serious offenders.

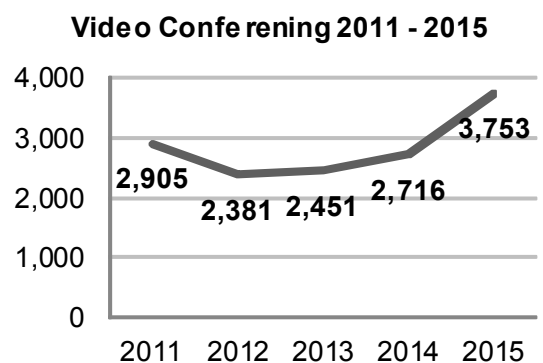


Video Conferencing

SPA participates in the Cross Justice Video Conferencing System, a joint initiative between CSNSW, the Attorney General and Justice, NSW Police Force and Juvenile Justice NSW. It was introduced to avoid transport and escort costs and reduce the risk of escapes during external movements.

76 video conferencing studios are available in 28 correctional centres across the State. The SPA has enthusiastically embraced the use of this technology and was the first court in Australia to undertake 100% of its hearing agenda via a video conferencing link for offenders in custody.

In 2015, 50,606 CSNSW matters were dealt with via the video conferencing network. There were 3,753 matters dealt with by the SPA which represents 7.42% of overall system usage.



Serious Offenders - an overview

According to Section 135 (3) of the Act, except in exceptional circumstances, the SPA must not make a parole order for a serious offender unless SORC advises that it is appropriate.

Parole Granted - Of the 973 parole orders determined by SPA in 2015, 22 of these related to serious offenders. Of all offenders granted parole by the SPA, only 2.26% were serious offenders.

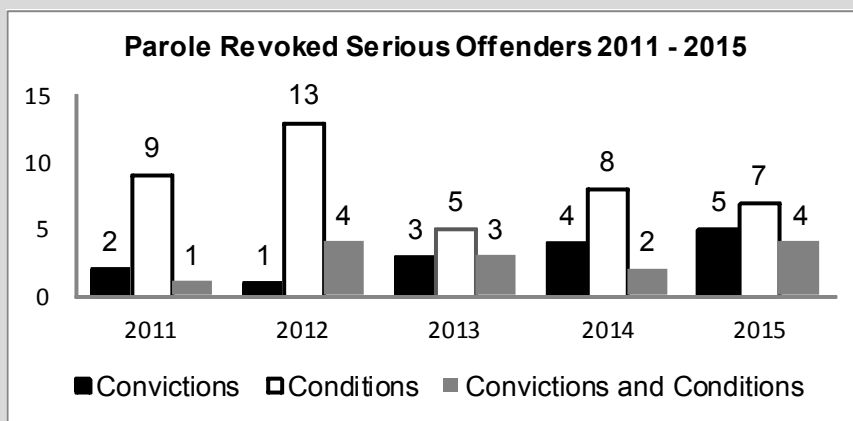
Parole Refused - Of the 297 offenders refused parole by SPA in 2015, 46 cases were related to serious offenders and this represents 15.49% of all offenders refused parole.

Victims Access to Documents - Section 193A(2) of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* allows the victim of a serious offender to access certain documents held by the SPA concerning the measures the offender has undertaken to address their offending behaviour. During the year, the SPA provided 13 victims with access to such documentation.

Victim Submissions - The SPA received 29 submissions from victims of serious offenders during 2015.

State Submissions - The SPA considered 22 State Submissions in relation to 17 serious offenders in 2015.

Revocation of parole - 16 serious offenders were revoked in 2015. Seven serious offenders were revoked for breach of conditions that were not related to re-offending. Five serious offenders were revoked for re-offending and four serious offenders were revoked for both a breach of conditions and re-offending.



Warnings - Serious offenders made up two of the 1,125 warnings issued in 2015.

Variation to Parole Conditions - There were variations made to 15 serious offender parole orders in 2015.

Overseas Travel - Two applications to travel overseas were approved by the SPA in 2015.

Appeals

The legislation permits an offender to appeal a decision of SPA.

Prior to the legislative amendments that came into effect on 10th October 2005, all appeals were made to the Court of Criminal Appeal. However, as a consequence of an amendment to Section 155 Part 6 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*, appeals are now made to a single judge sitting in the Administrative Division of the NSW Supreme Court. This legislation does not give the Supreme Court jurisdiction to consider the merits of the decision or release an offender to parole.

In such appeals, the offender usually alleges that the decision made on the basis of false, misleading or irrelevant information.

In 2015, there were 14 appeals to the Supreme Court of NSW, four of these commenced in 2014.

Section 156 provides for the Attorney General or Director of Public Prosecutions to allege that the Parole Authority made a decision regarding a serious offender on false, misleading or irrelevant information. This allegation is then considered by the Supreme Court who may then provide direction to the Parole Authority.

There were no such appeals in 2015.

Intensive Correction, Home Detention and Periodic Detention Orders

A separate division of SPA deals specifically with cases arising from Intensive Correction and Home Detention Orders. This division also deals specifically with the remaining Periodic Detention Orders still in force since its abolition as a sentencing option in October 2010. In 2015, 27 meetings were held to consider matters related to Intensive Correction, Home Detention and Periodic Detention Orders.

Home Detention Orders

Home Detention is a rigorously monitored, community supervision program aimed at the diversion of offenders from incarceration in prison.

The decision to allow an offender on the Home Detention program is based on the nature and circumstances of the offence, the degree of risk an offender poses to the community and the suitability of the residence where the sentence will be served.

A Home Detention Order is still a custodial sentence and strict guidelines apply. Offenders are required to remain within their residences unless undertaking approved activities and may be required to perform community service, enter treatment programs, submit to urinalysis and breath analysis and seek and maintain employment. Community Corrections monitor offenders' compliance with conditions on a 24 hour-a-day basis utilising electronic monitoring.

If a detainee fails to comply with the order, Community Corrections prepares a breach report for the SPA's consideration. Breaches of supervision conditions, further offences or unauthorised absences may result in revocation of the Home Detention Order and imprisonment in a correctional centre. Once returned to custody, the offenders can be assessed for reinstatement of the order.

In 2015, 12 detainees had their Home Detention Order revoked.

Home Detention Orders 2015

Revoked	12
Reinstatement Ordered	7
Reinstatement Declined	1
Warnings	20

Periodic Detention Orders

Prior to 1 October 2010, where an offender was sentenced to a term of imprisonment which exceeded three months but was less than three years, the sentence could be served by way of Periodic Detention.

This generally required the offender to remain in custody for two consecutive days of each week for the duration of the sentence, while also allowing offenders to maintain their ties to the community by remaining in employment and living with their families.

Periodic Detention ceased to be a sentencing option from 1 October 2010.

The SPA may revoke an order for Periodic Detention in a number of circumstances, including where an offender has not attended or failed to report for three detention periods without a reasonable excuse.

If the order is revoked, a warrant may be issued for the apprehension of the offender to serve the remainder of the sentence in full time custody or another action may be determined such as having the offender assessed for suitability for a Home Detention Order.

In 2015, one Periodic Detention Order was revoked.

Periodic Detention Orders 2015

Revoked	1
Reinstatement Ordered	3
Reinstatement Declined	0
Conversion to Home Detention	6

Intensive Correction Orders (ICO)

An ICO is a court sentence of two years or less which is served by way of intensive correction in the community under strict supervision of Community Corrections rather than full-time custody in a correctional centre. An ICO is for a fixed period and does not have a parole period. The Court can sentence an offender to an ICO once an assessment for suitability has been undertaken.

ICOs consist of a supervision/case management component and a community service order component. The offender has to report to Community Corrections, perform 32 hours of community service each month, attend rehabilitative programs where required and be subject to drug and alcohol testing. There is also provision for the offender to be electronically monitored.

In 2015, 1,695 offenders commenced an ICO.

Community Corrections are responsible for the administration of these orders. If an offender does not comply with their order, a report is prepared and sent to SPA for consideration.

SPA may issue a letter of warning to the offender, impose sanctions on the order including seven days Home Detention or revoke the ICO.

In 2015, 443 Intensive Correction Orders were revoked.

If an offender's ICO is revoked, the offender can apply for reinstatement of their ICO upon serving a month in custody. They must satisfy the SPA that they can successfully complete the remaining period on their ICO and a reinstatement report must also assess them as suitable.

In 2015, 182 Intensive Correction orders were reinstated.

Alternatively, an offender could seek conversion of the remaining ICO to Home Detention. In 2015, seven Home Detention Orders were given in lieu of an Intensive Correction Order.

19 applications to travel overseas were considered by SPA in 2015. Of these, 14 were approved to travel. All offender who travelled overseas returned and reported as directed.

Intensive Correction Orders 2011 - 2015

Year	Revoked	Rescinded	Reinstatement Ordered	Reinstatement Declined	Travel Approved	Conversion to Home Detention
2011	67	-	8	10	-	-
2012	114	8	10	16	9	4
2013	283	14	58	36	10	7
2014	359	22	115	25	14	1
2015	443	20	182	16	14	7

MEMBERSHIP

The SPA is constituted under the provisions of Section 183 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act, 1999*. At least four of the appointed members must be judicial members; acting or retired magistrates or judges of a New South Wales or Federal Court. At least ten community members are appointed to reflect the community at large although only two may sit at any meeting.

The other three members do not require appointment by the Governor. They are a member of the New South Wales Police Force nominated by the Commissioner of Police, an officer of Community Corrections nominated by the Commissioner of CSNSW. The Secretary of SPA is appointed by the Chairperson to dispose of routine business.

As of 31 December 2015, there were five judicial officers, 13 community members and five official members serving on the SPA.

Judicial Officers

The Honourable James Wood, AO QC was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1984, retiring in 2005. He was also appointed as the Chief Judge of Common Law and member of the Court of Appeal (1998 - 2005) and was a non-resident Judge of the Court of Appeal in Fiji (2004 - 2006). Judge Wood also served as the Royal Commissioner, leading an inquiry into corruption within the NSW Police Service and into Paedophilia (1994 - 1997), the Special Commissioner into an inquiry of the Child Protection System of NSW (2007 - 2008), Inspector at the Police Integrity Commission (2005 - 2007) and was a Member of the Customs Reform Board (2013 - 2014), the Independent Review Cycling Australia (2012 - 2013) and the Human Research Ethics Committee at the Sydney Children's Hospital (2005 - 2014). Judge Wood was also the Chairman of the NSW Law Reform Commission (2006 - 2013) and is currently the Chairman of the NSW Sentencing Council. Judge Wood was appointed as the Chairperson on 12 December 2013.

Judge David James Freeman was a solicitor for 5 years, a barrister for 11 years and was appointed a Judge in 1980. He retired from the District Court in October 2011 having spent the last 15 years of his judicial career sitting on criminal matters only. After his retirement, he was appointed an Acting District Court Judge and in 2013 an Acting Supreme Court Judge. Judge Freeman brings to the Parole Authority considerable experience in the field of crime and punishment. Judge Freeman was appointed as the Alternate Chairperson of the SPA on 15 December 2013.

Judge Paul Cloran was appointed a Magistrate in 1987 before retiring as Deputy Chief Magistrate of NSW in July 2010. Judge Cloran was also appointed an Acting Judge of the District Court and Judge of the Drug Court in July 2010. He presides at the Hunter Drug Court at Toronto. In September 2011, he was appointed a member of the Sentencing Council of NSW. Judge Cloran was appointed as a Judicial Member of the SPA on 15 July 2010 and was re-appointed on 15 December 2013.

Judicial Officers continued...

Mr Allan Moore was appointed a Magistrate in 1989 and maintained that appointment before retiring in December 2010. Mr Moore presided at Central Local Court during this time as Magistrate for a period of 11 years dealing primarily with the most serious of offences committed in the state of NSW. In February 2011, he was appointed as a Tribunal Member with the Victims Compensation Tribunal and was also appointed Acting Magistrate of NSW. He is also currently a member of the Serious Young Offenders Review Panel. Mr Moore was appointed as a Judicial Member of the SPA on 14 March 2012 and re-appointed from 14 March 2015.

The Honourable Graham Russell Barr, QC practised at the New South Wales Bar, including as a Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor and Deputy Crown Advocate, until his appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court of NSW. Following his retirement from that office in 2009, he was appointed as Acting Judge from time to time. Mr Barr was appointed Inspector of the New South Wales Crime Commission in April 2013. Judge Barr was appointed as a Judicial Member of the SPA on 17 December 2014.

Official Members

Community Corrections Representatives

Ms Brooke Carter was appointed as a Community Corrections Representative on 10 April 2014. Mr Dan Mulvany was first appointed as a Deputy Official Member on 7 May 2012 and as an Official Member on 8 April 2013. Upon Mr Mulvany's term ceasing on 7 April 2015, Ms Ilona Lawler was appointed. Ms Jillian Hume, Ms Jo-anne Stapleton, Mr Luke Easterbrook, Ms Joanne Moore, Ms Nicole Cleary, Ms Elizabeth Leafe, Ms Christie Lanza, Ms Sarah Gilmour, Mr Liam McOnie and Mr David Walsh act as deputies during leave by official appointees.

Police Representatives

Senior Sergeant Pettina Anderson was appointed as the Police Representative on 2 June 2009 and Chief Inspector Hamed Baqaie was appointed as the second Police Representative on 11 December 2009. Detective Sergeant Jason Wills was appointed as the third Police Representative on 8 October 2013. Inspector Helen Halcro, Senior Constable Kelly Green and Sergeant Joanne Sinclair act as deputies during leave by official appointees.

Community Members

Ms Rhonda Booby has had lengthy experience in a range of positions within NSW Corrections, including in community corrections, psychology and inmate welfare. She established the Restorative Justice Program in NSW Corrections. She finished her employment with NSW Corrections in 2010 at which time she was the Executive Director, Offender Services and Programs. Ms Booby, who is a solicitor, currently sits as a Senior Member (Legal) on the Guardianship and Administrative and Equal Opportunity Divisions of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal and as a Legal Member on the Mental Health Review Tribunal. As a part time Law Reform Commissioner, she was an author of the 2015 NSW Law Reform Commission Report on Parole. Ms Booby was appointed on 20 October 2015.

Mrs Susan Carter is an experienced commercial solicitor having worked in a major commercial practice, as in-house counsel for a media company as well as being seconded for a period of government service. She is currently involved in legal education, lecturing at undergraduate and post-graduate levels at both Sydney and Macquarie Universities. Mrs Carter has used her legal expertise both in practical commercial applications and wider policy issues, especially those relating to strengthening families and building stronger communities. She served as the NSW Secretary and a National Executive member of the Australian Family Association for over 10 years; was a board member of the Australian Institute of Family Studies and as a member of the Family Law Council of Australia. She currently serves as a member of the Examinations Committee of the Legal Profession Admission Board. Mrs Carter was appointed on 21 October 2012 and re-appointed on 20 October 2015.

Ms Peta Drake has an LLM from the University of Sydney and worked for many years as a solicitor both in private practice and in-house in Australia and overseas. After a period of maternity leave she returned to Australia and established a retail home textiles brand which was sold from her own store as well as on-line. She is currently enrolled in a post graduate degree in Human Rights law and Policy at the University of NSW and works with Australian Red Cross in its Immigration Detention Monitoring Program. She was appointed to the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal (now NCAT) as an Advisory Member in the Retail Leasing Division in 2012. Ms Drake was appointed on 20 October 2015.

Cr Douglas Eaton OAM is the Mayor of Wyong Council. He is the longest serving Wyong councillor having been first elected in 1991. Cr Eaton is the Joint Chair of the Gosford Wyong Water Committee and Central Coast regional organisation of Councils, a member of the Hunter / Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Board, Member of the Home Building Advisory Board, Board Advisor of the Central Coast Chinese Association and Board Member and former Chair of the Central Coast Group Training Ltd. Cr Eaton is also a practicing solicitor and holds degrees in Commerce and Law and was appointed to the Authority on 23 May 2012. Mr Eaton's appointment expired on 22 May 2015.

Mr Barrie East has always lived and worked in Sydney, with the exception of two years working in Melbourne. Mr East is a professional manager for over 40 years, in various roles including; CEO, General Manager, National Manager and State Regional Manager, across several businesses, commercial and not-for-profit sectors. He has always gained much personal gratitude and satisfaction from helping and mentoring others in need of support and direction. Mr East was appointed on 23 May 2012. Mr East's appointment expired on 22 May 2015.

Community Members continued...

Ms Katie Fullilove is the Fertility Care Practitioner and Natural Fertility Educator for the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. She has a history of working both youth and aged care disability in the field of Occupational Therapy. Mrs Fullilove was appointed on 21 October 2012. Ms Fullilove's appointment expired on 20 October 2015.

Mr Rod Harvey APM retired from the NSW Police in August 2001 at the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent after 35 years' service, the majority of which was devoted to the investigation of major crime and the management of major investigations. In recognition of his service to policing he received the Australian Police Medal, the National Police Service Medal, the NSW Police Medal, and the National Medal, along with several commendations. Since retiring as a police officer he has undertaken a range of consultancies and investigations, including engagements with Corrective Services NSW and the NSW Police Force. Mr Harvey was appointed on 28 November 2012, and was reappointed on 27 November 2015.

Stuart Hemmings FACE, GAICD, JP has a background as a secondary school teacher of agriculture and science. Mr Hemmings is a non-executive Director of the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia and also works part-time as an education consultant (including an Associate role with Cambridge Education). Prior to this he held a number of senior positions in the NSW Department of Education in both rural and metropolitan settings, most recently as Director of Policy, Planning and Reporting in the NSW Public Schools portfolio. He has also worked extensively for the NSW Board of Studies in a number of capacities and is a recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Director's course. Mr Hemmings maintains membership of the AICD, the NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. He is also a member of the Australian College of Educators and was awarded Fellowship of the College in 2014. Mr Hemmings was appointed on 20 October 2015.

Ms Martha Jabour is Executive Director, Homicide Victims Support Group (Aust.) Inc., a position she has held since 1993. Her interests are to further promote the rights and needs of family members of homicide, especially children. Ms Jabour has and continues to represent the community and family members of homicide on a range of committees and boards. Other areas of special focus are on crime prevention, particularly in the areas of domestic violence, mental health and juvenile justice. Ms Jabour was appointed to the State Parole Authority on 4 October 2006 and was reappointed on 21 October 2009, 21 October 2012 and on 21 October 2015.

Mr Ken B Marslew AM is CEO and founder of Enough is Enough Anti Violence Movement Inc., est. 1994. He was appointed a member of The Order of Australia, the Advance Australia Award, The Australian Centenary Medal, Australian Heads of Government National Violence Prevention Award and National Crime and Violence Prevention Award, to name a few. He is a member of the Victims of Crime Bureau Interagency, NSW Attorney Generals Victims Advisory Board, Corrective Services Restorative Justice Advisory Committee, and NSW Sentencing Council. Mr Marslew was appointed on 17 July 2013.

Community Members continued...

Mr Yair Miller is the CEO of a large NGO and previously worked as a management consultant specialising in Disaster and Emergency Management. Mr Miller is Immediate Past President of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and was a Member of the Ministerial Consultative Committee for the Jewish Community until its recent disbandment. Mr Miller is very active in Inter-Faith and Inter-Ethnic activities and sits on numerous Community Boards. Mr Miller was appointed on 11 July 2012. Mr Miller's appointment expired on 10 July 2015.

Ms Catriona McComish is the Director of Firefinch Consulting which provides clinical, forensic and organizational psychology services to public sector agencies, training groups and NGOs. She previously worked for 30 years in public sector education, health and justice services developing and leading the delivery of mental health and behaviour change policy and programs in WA and NSW. Additionally, she has held appointments in the university sector in psychology and criminology research and teaching. She finished her public sector employment in 2006 as Senior Assistant Commissioner Community Offender Services in Corrective Services NSW and established her own consulting group. Ms McComish was appointed on 23 January 2013.

Mr Ken Moroney AO APM retired as the Commissioner, NSW Police Force, on 31 August 2007 after completing 42 years service as a police officer. He is a recipient of both the National Medal with First and Second Class Clasps and the Australian Police Medal for Distinguished Service. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2007 for his services to law enforcement and national security. He was highly commended on several occasions for his service to the people of NSW. His other appointments include membership of a number of Boards including NSW Police Legacy and the Kid's Cancer Project (Oncology Children's Foundation). He is also a member of the World Bank /UN Project of Global Road Safety. Mr Moroney is a NSW representative and member of the Australian Bravery Decorations Council and representative of the Conduct Division of the Judicial Commission of NSW. Mr Moroney was appointed on 19 September 2007 and was reappointed on 19 September 2010 and 19 September 2013.

Mr Andrew Nattress began his career as a police officer in the United Kingdom, before moving to Hong Kong in 1974 where he joined the then Royal Hong Kong Police Force as an Inspector. Subsequently taking a position as an investigator with the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), he served in various roles until his departure in 1987 as a Chief Investigator with the ICAC. Upon his departure from Hong Kong, Mr Nattress came to Australia and joined the then National Crime Authority as an Assistant Director in charge of the fledgling telecommunications interception branch. He was subsequently appointed as the National Director of Intelligence before his departure in 1996 to take up a position with the newly created New South Wales Police Integrity Commission as the Director of Operations. When Mr Nattress retired in 2013, he was an Assistant Commissioner and Director of Operations of the Police Integrity Commission. Mr Nattress was appointed on 26 February 2014.

Community Members continued...

Mr Donald Sword works for an inner-city homeless service and teaches at the Sydney Institute of TAFE. On behalf of the NSW Ombudsman, he delivers training services to state and federal agencies and non-government organisations. He has served as an Official Community Visitor appointed by the Minister for Disability Services, and as an Official Visitor to the hospital at Long Bay Correctional Centre. He is a member of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Guardianship Division), the NSW Legal Aid Review Committee, and the Justice Disability Advisory Council. Mr Sword was appointed on 20 October 2015 .

Mr Lloyd Walker was once the Acting Coordinator for the Aboriginal Corporation for Homeless and Rehabilitation Community Services and has been an Official Visitor for Lithgow Correctional Centre. He was appointed as a Community Member of the Serious Young Offenders Review Panel in December 2013. Mr Walker was appointed on 1 July 2000 and was reappointed on 1 July 2003, 1 July 2006, 1 July 2009, 1 July 2012 and 24 June 2015.

Mr Peter Walsh APM was formerly the Senior Assistant Commissioner of the NSW Police Force after 38 years within the Force. Awarded both the Centenary Medal in 2000 for Service to the Community and the Australian Police Medal in 1996 for distinguished police service, he completed the majority of his service throughout country NSW. Mr Walsh was appointed to the SPA on 17 January 2005 and was reappointed on 17 January 2008, 17 January 2011 and 22 January 2014.

Mr Ron Woodham began his career in Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) in 1966 as a Correctional Officer. In 2002, he was appointed as Commissioner of CSNSW and maintained that appointment for 10 years. Mr Woodham retired as the Commissioner in August 2012. He is also a member of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority and NSW TAFE Commission Board. Mr Woodham was appointed on 1 July 2012. Mr Woodham's appointment expired on 30 June 2015.

Secretary

Mr Robert Cosman
Director & Secretary

Ms Amy Manuell
Deputy Director & Assistant Secretary

The Secretariat

The SPA would not function without the hard work of the Secretariat. Staffed by officers from CSNSW, the Secretariat is made up of three interdependent teams; the Submissions, Reviews and Support Teams.

Support Team - consists of six officers, three trainee and Senior Administration Officer that provide administrative support to the Secretariat, led by the Team Leader in Administration. This team is responsible for duties such as data entry into OIMS, preparation of agendas for SPA members, coordination of VCSS, preparing requests for psychological and psychiatric reports and the preparation of documents to be forwarded to offenders and their legal representatives.

Submissions Team - consists of four Submissions Officers and a Senior Administration Officer led by the Submissions Team Leader. Together, they are responsible for the preparation and collation of all matters that go before the private meetings. This preparation includes a wide range of tasks from requesting criminal histories, police facts and judge's sentencing remarks to coordinating the submission of reports from Community Corrections Officers. Upon receipt of all necessary documents for an offender's case, they are filed on the electronic records management system, TRIM, ready for distribution to the members. Submissions Officers are also responsible for the preparation of warrants, orders, memorandums and correspondence.

Reviews Team - consists of four Reviews Officer and a Senior Administration Officer led by a Reviews Team Leader. The Reviews Team is responsible for the preparation and collation of all matters that go before the public review hearings at court. Each Review Officer is responsible for a particular day of the week. Preparation includes coordinating submission of updated reports, filing reports in TRIM, ensuring appropriate people are available to give evidence on the day (offenders, legal representatives or Community Corrections Officers) and the smooth running of the court hearing. Review Officers are also responsible for the preparation of warrants, orders and correspondence.

The Authority is fortunate to have the expertise of Liaison Officers, both a Custodial and Community Corrections Liaison Officers, who act as conduits between Corrective Services NSW and the Parole Authority. The Authority is fortunate to have Nigel Lloyd as the Deputy Superintendent to the Parole Authority. Elizabeth Leafe and Emma Marston fulfilled the responsibilities of the Community Corrections Liaison Officer in 2015. These liaison officers provide support, guidance and advice to the Authority members and Secretariat, while also being instrumental in the provision of feedback, training, assistance and advice to Correctional Centre Officers, Community Corrections Officers and members of the public.

Guiding Principles

Corporate Governance

Performance against corporate governance, service delivery and performance objectives.

Meet all statutory obligations ensuring all decisions are appropriate and in the public interest:

- Considered 15,601 cases.
- Conducted 100 Private Meetings, 142 Public Hearings and 27 ICO/PD/HD meetings.
- Conducted 50 Secretary Sitings.
- Therefore, 15,601 cases in 319 meetings.
- Issued 973 parole orders.
- Revoked 2,579 Parole Orders, 443 Intensive Correction Orders, 12 Home Detention Orders and one Periodic Detention Order.

Manage the existing corporate governance framework and maintain a program of continuous review and improvements:

- Tabled 2014 Annual Report in Parliament.
- Conducted regular operational / planning meetings and issued policy / procedure directives to staff.
- Met all Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983 directives regarding the annual stock take, budget cycle and financial management requirements.

Develop strategic partnerships with stakeholders and improve public knowledge and awareness of the SPA:

- The SPA website was revised and updated to provide the public with information and knowledge about the operations and functions of SPA.
- Continued to meet statutory obligations to victims by facilitating access to modified documents.
- Facilitated training sessions for Community Corrections Officers and custodial staff at the Academy and Community Corrections locations.
- Provided presentations to CSNSW staff and at the University of NSW.
- Maintained partnerships with CSNSW, SORC, NSW Police and the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Develop a membership that embraces diversity and is reflective of the community:

Total Members: 28

- 32.00% are female (9 members)
- 3.57% are indigenous (1 member)
- 10.71% have a CALD - culturally and linguistically diverse (3 members)
- 7.14% live in country locations (2 members)