



PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICE INC

CHAINMAIL

INFORMATION BROADSHEET FOR PRISONERS OF QUEENSLAND

110th Edition May 2018

JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

Parole application process changes

The recent parole review has effected wide-sweeping changes to the parole process and structure in Queensland. One substantial change, recently implemented across prisons is the parole application process. In late February, a new version 5 of the Form 29, "Application by prisoner for parole order", removed the need for prisoners to submit a support plan in writing as part of their application.

The new form simply requires the applicant to fill out the front page noting the usual fields such as accommodation, sponsor, contact details and prospective employment. A parole representative will interview you regarding your prison history and parole plans. Therefore, this eliminates the need for a written application at the level of complexity required in the past. Please do not hesitate to contact our service for advice in relation to these changes and how best to prepare for your parole interview.

Below is a summary of the new parole application process.

WHEN CAN YOU APPLY?	
	First time? You can submit a parole application 6 months before your parole eligibility date
	Previously refused? If you have previously had an application refused, you can reapply when advised by the parole board. The maximum time you will have to wait is 6 months after you have had a parole refusal
	Cancelled? If your parole has been cancelled, you can submit a new application straight away

HOW DO YOU APPLY?	
	To apply for parole, you should give the following documents to sentence management:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form 29 Parole Application • Form 176 Accommodation Risk Assessment Request <p>You can request for the forms through Sentence Management or simply fill out a prisoner request form.</p>

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?	
	Accommodation Risk Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment will be completed regarding whether the address you have submitted is suitable for you on parole. A report will be written about this address for the parole board
	Parole Interview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be interviewed by Corrective Services about your prison history and parole plans • You can prepare for the interview by completing a Form 308 'Prisoner Submission for Parole'. This form is to help you prepare for the questions you will be asked in the interview. The form is not provided to the parole board unless they ask for it • After your interview, Corrective Services will write a report about you that is provided to the parole board to help them a decision about your parole

Prisoners' Legal Service Inc.
Postal Address: GPO Box 257, Brisbane QLD 4001

Justice Behind Bars
Free Advice Line: Tues and Thurs from 9am to 1pm

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Notice: Safe Way Home Program Closure

We are closing the Safe Way Home program as a result of changes to the parole application process noted overleaf. Given these changes affect our primary core service and our partnership with pro bono law firms, we are forced to end the program and restructure our service delivery. PLS will now have dedicated parole solicitors primarily engaged with assisting prisoners with advice in relation to general parole enquiries, with a casework focus on submission work to the parole board.



What can our parole solicitors now help with?

- We can assist a limited number of prisoners with making submissions to the parole board in relation to:
 - Preliminary decisions to refuse parole application; and
 - Requests for show cause submissions in response to decisions to suspend or cancel parole orders.
- Provide one-off legal advice in relation to parole related matters.

Due to the high demand for assistance and limited resources available, PLS staff must apply the following three criteria when selecting clients to receive this assistance:

1. Merit	2. Capability	3. Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospects of success in changing outcome of decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the client has relevant skills, training, abilities and personal resources required to advocate for themselves in the matter. • When assessing the client's capability, staff should consider whether they have any vulnerabilities that may impact on their ability to make submissions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Disability (cognitive, physical and/or psycho-social) ❖ Cultural barriers (Indigenous and ESL prisoners) ❖ Women in prison ❖ Lengthy incarceration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the client's case is one which would require more resources to properly conduct than are available to the Centre at the time. • When considering PLS's resources, regard will be had to staff and specialised expertise available

In 2006, post-prison based release options were largely removed from the old *Corrective Services Act (Qld) 2000* leaving parole as the primary form of release. Most notable of these were remissions, conditional release and home detention. The need arose for a dedicated service for parole as PLS' statistics in the wake of these changes showed a large increase in parole related queries. Safe Way Home was originally founded as the Gradual Release Assistance Program (GRAP) in 2007 to provide a parole application service to the most vulnerable prisoners. Through the thousands of parole applications we have compiled, to the hundreds of parole training sessions conducted in prison, to the countless parole kits we have disseminated over the course of 11 years, we hope to have encouraged and inspired prisoners to genuinely consider their offending behaviour, develop life-long strategies to avoid reoffending and achieve their release plans successfully.

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