

# Strengthening parole

Tough and smart justice for safer communities  
Part of a \$200 million package

The NSW Government has legislated to enable smarter management of parolees to help protect the community.

Evidence shows that supervising offenders on parole reduces reoffending.

## What do the changes mean?

### Smarter decision making for a safer community

Community safety is the State Parole Authority's (SPA) paramount consideration when making parole decisions. The SPA can:

- refuse parole if an offender convicted of murder or manslaughter has failed to tell investigators the location of their victim's remains ('no body, no parole').
- revoke parole if the parolee's behaviour raises serious concerns about community safety, even if there has been no breach of their parole conditions.
- allow suitable candidates a period of supervised reintegration home detention in the last six months of their non-parole period. This provides a structured step-down between prison and parole. Domestic violence offenders are not eligible for this program.

### A stronger voice for victims

Registered victims are being notified by the Corrective Services Victims Register when there are important changes to relevant offenders' circumstances in custody, including when an offender is being considered for parole. All registered victims have the right to make a statement to be considered during the SPA decision making process.

"Many victims understand the importance of parole. Parole provides supervision, monitoring and programs, which makes reoffending less likely. Authorities know where offenders live and strict conditions are imposed. Parole is very conditional and helps to keep the community safe."

**Mahashini Krishna**  
Commissioner of Victims Rights

### Sanctions for parole breaches

- Community Corrections Officers have clearer authority to respond to less serious breaches, including by imposing curfews.
- Serious breaches will still be reported to the SPA.

### Mandatory supervision

- Supervision is the best method of reducing reoffending and is a mandatory parole condition. New guidelines, based on international best practice, have been implemented to improve supervision.
- Community Corrections Officers are fully trained and well equipped to manage parolees.

**These changes are part of a \$200 million package of reforms announced in May 2017 to reduce reoffending, improve community safety and support victims.**

#### Tough and smart justice – safer communities

