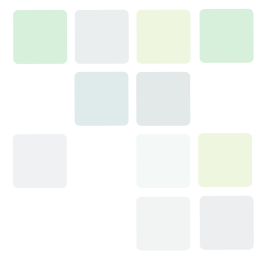




Youth Parole Board and Youth Residential Board Victoria

Annual Report

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Youth Residential Board
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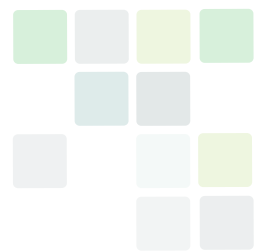
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August 2014 [3261112]



Letter to the Minister

Hon Mary Wooldridge MP
Minister for Community Services
Level 22
50 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE 3000

Dear Minister

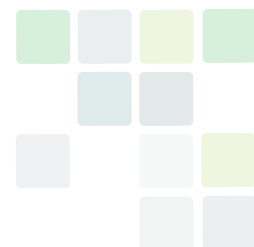
In accordance with the requirements of sections 441 and 452 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*, I have pleasure in submitting to you this report on the operations of the Youth Parole Board and Youth Residential Board for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 for presentation to Parliament.

The report contains information about:

- the number of persons released on parole by the Boards;
- the number of persons returned to a youth justice centre or youth residential centre on cancellation of parole; and
- the operation and activities of the Boards and of youth parole officers generally during the twelve-month period.

Yours sincerely

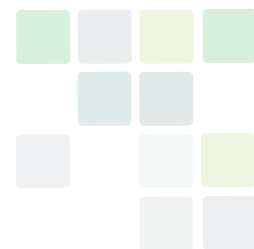
His Honour Judge Michael Bourke
Chairperson
Youth Parole and Youth Residential Boards



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Highlights 2013–2014

The Larry Osborne Scholarship

In 2011, the Youth Parole Board marked 50 years of operation. In commemoration, the Minister for Community Services, the Hon Mary Wooldridge MP, approved the establishment of a perpetual annual scholarship to encourage innovative best practice in parole planning and supervision of parolees in the community.



Dr Larry Osborne proposed the idea of a scholarship to Minister Wooldridge during her meeting with the Youth Parole Board in September 2011 prior to his unexpected death in November 2011. The creation of the scholarship and its title commemorates the late Dr Osborne and is a fitting tribute to his valued contribution to the youth parole system.

Applications for the scholarship are open to youth justice staff in Department of Human Services' divisions and staff working in youth justice centres. In December 2013, His

Honour Judge Michael Bourke, Chairperson of the Youth Parole Board presented the scholarship to Mr Timothy Solomon, Senior Youth Justice Case Manager from the Ballarat youth justice team. The focus of Mr Solomon's application is young men from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island (ATSI) backgrounds. He proposed an investigation of the links between the understanding of culture and country and a reduction in the risk of reoffending. Mr. Solomon's research findings will inform the second part of his proposal, the development of a youth justice ATSI specific program model that supports a connection to culture and country with an aim to support successful transition to the community and reduce recidivism.

The outcomes of the project will be presented in December 2014 to the Youth Parole Board and inform youth justice program development.

Operations

- In 2013–14, there was a decrease of 23 per cent in the number of youth residential and youth justice centre orders commenced, compared to the previous year.
- During 2013–14, the Boards considered 2,478 matters during 24 scheduled and 39 ad hoc meetings.
- The Boards issued 195 parole orders, a 16 per cent decrease on the previous year (231).
- The Boards gave formal warnings to 35 young people concerning unsatisfactory behaviour in custody or on parole.
- The Boards cancelled 68 parole orders – 23 for re-offending and 45 for failure to comply with parole conditions.
- The Youth Parole Board transferred four young people to prison (in accordance with section 467 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*).
- The Adult Parole Board transferred two young people from prison to a youth justice centre (in accordance with section 471 of the Act).
- There were 102 parole orders successfully completed during 2013–14 (some parole orders issued in 2012–13 remain current).

Board members



Chairperson, His Honour Judge Michael Bourke, Judge of the County Court of Victoria. Appointed as alternate chairperson on 24 October 2006. Appointed chairperson 23 November 2007.



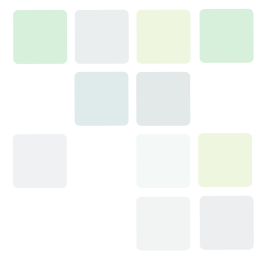
Community member, Ms Deborah Bryant, Regional Manager Neami National. Appointed as community member on 18 December 2008.

Ms Bryant is a strong advocate for social justice in the areas of mental health, family violence and sexual assault and is an active member of several organisations and committees that focus on these issues.



Community member, Ms Helen Dimopoulos, General Manager Service Development, Barwon Youth. Appointed as community member on 22 December 2011.

Ms Dimopoulos has held management roles at Barwon Youth for many years with responsibility for a range of youth services including mentoring, drug and alcohol support, education and community support programs. With expertise as a youth justice worker, she has also been involved in developing and implementing programs across regional and rural Victoria with a focus on pre and post release support, early intervention, crime prevention and youth justice group conferencing. She has been a member of regional and state-wide committees focusing on community safety, education, drug and alcohol support and homelessness services.



Departmental member, Mr Victor Gordon, Loddon Area, Department of Human Services. Appointed as an alternative departmental member on 11 December 2001 to 8 March 2013 and department member from 9 March 2013.

Mr Gordon was a regional director in the Department of Human Services for many years in both metropolitan and rural regions. He has a broad knowledge of operational and policy issues across a wide range of program areas. He also has extensive experience in the area of labour market and employment access programs for disadvantaged groups.



Alternate chairperson, His Honour Judge Ross Howie, Reserve Judge of the County Court of Victoria. Appointed as alternate chairperson from 23 March 2010 to 26 December 2012 and reappointed as alternate chairperson on 9 April 2013.



Alternate community member, Ms Carmel Guerra, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Multicultural Youth. Appointed as alternate community member on 3 April 2012.

Ms Guerra is the founder and CEO of the Centre for Multicultural Youth, a Victorian not-for-profit organisation supporting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to build better lives in Australia. She has brought a multicultural perspective to many committees, advisory groups and forums at the Commonwealth, State and community level concerning alcohol and drug abuse, mental health, suicide prevention and policing issues.



Alternate community member, Ms Yvonne Luke, retired Aboriginal welfare worker. Appointed as alternate community member from 9 March 2010.

Ms Luke is an Aboriginal Elder who has worked for many years in government and non-government organisations to develop and implement programs and services to assist disadvantaged Aboriginal young people and their families. She is a former Respected Person/Elder of the Broadmeadows Koori Court. She received the Robin Clark Memorial Award in 2003 for her dedication and advocacy for Aboriginal young people. She was placed on the International Women's Day Honour Roll in 2010 and has been honoured by the establishment of the INTRAIN Yvonne Luke Aboriginal Scholarships to assist Aboriginal students to undertake tertiary studies.



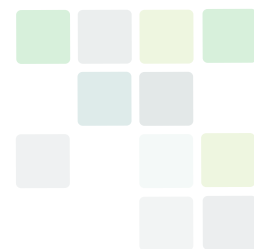
Alternate departmental member, Ms Kathryn Lamb, Director, North East Melbourne Area, Department of Human Services. Appointed as alternate departmental member on 9 March 2013 and resigned on 17 December 2013.

Ms Lamb has held a range of senior executive positions in the Department of Human Services in both metropolitan and rural regions. She has a broad knowledge of policy and operational issues across human services. She has had extensive experience across portfolios of children, youth and families and disability services, including access programs for disadvantaged groups.



Alternate departmental member, Rod Carracher, Director, Brimbank Melton Area, Department of Human Services. Appointed as alternate departmental member on 18 December 2013.

Mr Carracher has held several executive, policy and senior management positions across various programs within the Department of Human Services for over 20 years. Mr Carracher has extensive expertise in managing disability and accommodation support services, including case planning and review for young people with complex and challenging behaviours and/or young people with a disability.



Youth Parole Board and Youth Residential Board Secretariat

Manager	Catherine Lane, Manager, Operations and Practice, Youth Justice and Disability Forensic Unit
Secretary	Sally Norton Russell Jeffrey, Acting Secretary (27 August 2013 to 3 September 2013 and 18 February 2014 to 10 March 2014)
Administrative coordinator	Anne Attard-Barbato Catherine Cusworth (19 October 2013 to 30 June 2014)
Administrative assistants	Catherine Cusworth (1 July 2013 to 18 October 2013) Emily Hudson (21 January 2014 to 30 June 2014) Oliver Fielding (20 November 2013 to 20 May 2014) Anne Reid (Part-time 1 July 2013 to 4 June 2014)
Address	10th floor, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 3000 Telephone (03) 9096 7534 Facsimile (03) 9096 9148



From left: Emily Hudson, Sally Norton and Catherine Cusworth.

Chairperson's message



Over the year there has been one major change to the makeup of the Board and several changes in staff at the secretariat.

Unfortunately Kathryn Lamb left us in December 2013. I had enjoyed working with Kathryn and appreciated her input. She has been replaced as alternate departmental member by Rod Carracher, who has extensive experience with the Department of Human Services and youth care, particularly in the support of young people with a disability. The Board have quickly come to value his contribution.

Anne Attard-Barbato and Alyssa Fava have left the secretariat on extended leave. Oliver Fielding also left in May of this year. We thank them for their work. Secretary Sally Norton and her present staff (Catherine Cusworth, Emily Hudson and Anne Reid, who returned part-time until recently) have continued to provide highly competent and committed support to the Board. They have done so while working within these constraints and dealing with the particular difficulties and pressures of their role. We warmly thank Sally and her team.

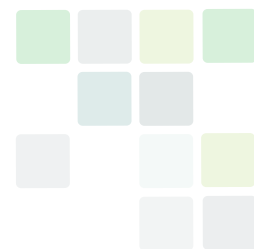
Innovations of recent years have continued and in my view strengthened. Parkville College has become an important part of rehabilitation during the sentence period and, I am pleased to say, there have been occasions of young people continuing their involvement while on parole. I hope this develops further.

The Board's efforts to make proper reference to victims' issues has also progressed. Our victim register (thanks to the efforts of Sally Norton and her staff) has become, in my view, a highly reliable and valuable document. I agree with remarks in another part of this report about the helpful response of police informants in this regard.

The Young Offenders Transfer Review Group continues to meet monthly. This group now facilitates liaison and discussion between Corrections Victoria and the Adult Parole Board about persons transferred to the adult system. That includes, as the larger group, those who have received an adult prison sentence. People such as Robyn Miller, Director of the Office of Professional Practice at Department of Human Services, Bernie Geary, Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Wayne Muir, CEO of Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, have attended review group meetings.

Visitors to the Youth and Residential Parole Boards have included Magistrate Lesley Fleming; Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Andrew Jackomos; Wayne Muir and other members of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service staff; the manager of the Independent Visitor Program at the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Chris Galea, and a number of independent visitors. We thank these individuals and others who have attended Board meetings for their interest.

We were grateful that senior members of the Youth Health and Rehabilitation Service (YHaRS) visited the Board early in 2014 and assisted our understanding of the new health service.



Finally I warmly thank all of those important people who make up the youth justice system, managers and others within the youth justice centres, the youth justice areas, and in the many other agencies that support youth parole. Yours is important and I know sometimes difficult and thankless work. I continue to greatly admire how you do it.

I have emphasised in past reports the very badly disadvantaged nature of much of the youth parole population. That includes those with intellectual functioning issues. For example, an October 2013 snapshot survey stated those in this category to be 22 per cent of the population. 11 per cent were formally registered with Disability Services. These are figures massively beyond those in the general population. Further, I have no doubt that the numbers within our population registered as entitled to Disability Services do not reflect the full number of young people within the youth justice system whose lives and chances are affected by intellectual and other cognitive deficits. For example, those not before registered are not infrequently assessed as entitled to services during sentence, given their presentation and difficulties within detention.

Many of the young people are so disadvantaged that they are not capable of coping with placement in open site sections at Malmsbury, and are placed in a more secure environment. This creates difficulties, including placement with others who might not be suitable for the open site but not disadvantaged like them. Management and staff at Malmsbury have been confronted with this problem for a number of years. I recognise the difficulty and quality of their work in this situation. As I understand, a new secure facility at Malmsbury will be completed in about mid-2015. There is an urgent need for this, and I hope it can come quickly to fruition.

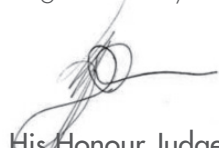
Young people with an intellectual disability are entitled to the best possible assistance in custody and on parole. In my view, their transition into the community should be carefully managed. This requires early involvement by expert services such as Disability Client Services when they are placed in custody. Relationships with those who will assist them in the community and arrange for such assistance, for example, accommodation, should be established early. There is often a need for expert advice and assistance to staff at Malmsbury and Parkville in managing problems with such clients in custody.

The numbers at both Malmsbury and Parkville are presently down. This can be at least partly related to an approximate 30 per cent decrease in youth justice centre sentences imposed in the adult courts. There is also a much smaller decrease in the Children's Court (six per cent). It would be good indeed to reflect that young persons are committing less, or less serious, crime. I am aware of, although I have not studied, statistics suggestive of that. There is also the consideration of more young persons receiving sentences to adult imprisonment, and there is evidence of increase in that over recent years. I do not claim close knowledge of, or expertise in, such statistics. However, there is an ongoing need and community interest in providing assistance to young sentenced offenders to support their transition back into their community. This a broad challenge, both in youth and adult justice systems. There is time to act to prevent their return to offending and further custody while they are still young. One would hope to think that this is seen as inarguable. In my opinion the 'dual track' within the youth and adult justice systems (the availability of youth justice centre detention for offenders aged 18 to 20) is vitally important to this aim.

I state again this year that, as cancellation figures show, the older age group (18 to 20 and sometimes beyond) perform approximately twice as well on youth parole. It is an established pattern.

One final comment about delay affecting our system. It is common that a young person moves closer to an appropriate parole date but faces an upcoming court hearing, often for offending or alleged offending predating the present sentence. Sometimes the young person is on adult remand, although they are serving a youth sentence, and parole would simply mean transfer to the adult remand system. Delay is a problem which affects the whole criminal justice system, but it can have a particularly bad impact upon the young offender. There can be delay awaiting hearing and sentence, in making a timely bail application (possibly averting one of the problems I have earlier described) and when being charged by police. It is not a matter of fault. One wonders whether close, proactive liaison between the important parties (lawyer, courts and police informant) would perhaps not remove but reduce the problem.

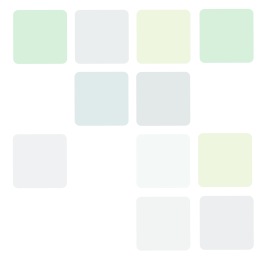
I again thank you for your year's work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Bourke', with a circular flourish at the end.

His Honour Judge Michael Bourke

Chairperson

Youth Parole and Youth Residential Boards



Secretary's report



This year has been one of increasing stability for the secretariat with the consolidation of expertise, knowledge and skills within the team and the development of important relationships with other departments and external agencies.

The Youth Parole and Youth Residential Boards (the Boards) have benefitted from strengthened networks with Corrections Victoria, the youth justice service and the youth parole system. A range of collaborative projects have improved information exchange and led to the development of agreed processes, particularly with the dual track client group who may be involved with both the adult and youth justice systems. This has allowed the secretariat to refine its systems and ensure ongoing improvements and expediency in the work undertaken to administer the youth parole system.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Judge Michael Bourke, who as the Chairperson of the Boards, continues to make himself available to respond to the broad range of inquiries and requests received from youth parolees and their families, police members, victims of crimes, the media and others involved with or interested in the youth parole system. Judge Bourke generously shares his wealth of knowledge, expertise and wisdom.

I would also like to thank all members of the Boards who continue to apply their specialist skills to ensure, as far as practicable, achievement of a balance between positive outcomes for young people subject to youth parole and the safety of the community.

I am continually impressed with the commitment shown by youth justice community-based and centre staff, including their diligence towards improving outcomes for young people involved with the youth justice service. Their demonstration of skill, expertise and support of young people who are often marginalised and presenting with complex and challenging behaviours is commendable and can directly influence a young person's successful completion of parole and transition to independence.

Victims' matters continue to be a significant and an increasingly prevalent factor in the Boards' considerations when making decisions about parole. Liaison with Victoria Police on this issue has been invaluable and I would like to thank police members for their advice to the Boards and assistance in offering support to victims' of crime.

There are considerable changes ahead for the secretariat with plans to streamline processes by introducing new technology and organisational approaches to manage the administrative requirements of the youth parole system.

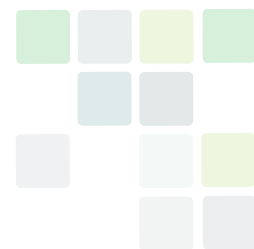
Finally, I would like to thank the exceptional secretariat staff; Catherine Cusworth, Emily Hudson, Anne Reid and others who have worked in the secretariat during the past year. Their skill, commitment, enthusiasm and dedication in identifying and implementing ongoing improvements to ensure the smooth running of the youth parole system is invaluable.

Sally Norton
Secretary



Youth Parole Board members (from left): His Honour Judge Michael Bourke, Yvonne Luke, Helen Dimopoulos, Vic Gordon, Carmel Guerra, His Honour Judge Ross Howie and Rod Carracher.

Absent from photo: Deborah Bryant.



Introduction

Jurisdiction and powers of the Youth Residential and Youth Parole Boards

Sections 431 and 442 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* make provision for the establishment of the Youth Residential Board and Youth Parole Board (the Boards).

Sections 462 and 463 of the Act stipulate that each young person ordered by a court to be detained in a youth residential centre or a youth justice centre is subject to the jurisdiction of the respective Board.

Sections 454 and 458 empower the Boards to release, or grant parole to, young people subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 453 stipulates that a parole officer is, in relation to a parole order made by the Boards, subject to the direction of that Board.

Sections 464 to 477 deal with the power to transfer young people between youth justice centres and youth residential centres and to transfer to prison.

Dual track system

Section 32 of the *Sentencing Act 1991* legislates that some 18 to 20 year olds convicted of serious offences can be detained in a youth justice centre instead of an adult prison if the court believes the young person has reasonable prospects for rehabilitation, or is particularly impressionable, immature or likely to be subjected to undesirable influences in an adult prison. This is commonly referred to as the 'dual track' system.

Objectives of parole

Parole permits the young person to serve part of their sentence in the community, under the guidance and supervision of their parole officer.

Parole enables a young person to receive the support and assistance they require to adapt successfully in their transition from detention to the community. The provision of a parole officer to monitor progress is a critical factor in the overall program of rehabilitation.

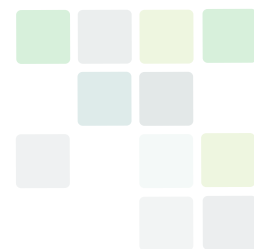
Functions of the Boards

The Boards carry out the following general functions:

- exercising jurisdiction over all young people sentenced by a court to a period of detention in a youth residential centre (10–14 years) or in a youth justice centre (15–20 years) and those transferred by the Adult Parole Board from imprisonment to a youth justice centre
- making decisions concerning eligibility for and release on parole of young people sentenced to detention
- making decisions concerning the transfer of young people between a youth residential centre and a youth justice centre and between a youth justice centre and prison.

In carrying out these functions, the Boards:

- interview young people in detention on request of centre management, or on the Boards' own initiative (young people may request an interview with the Boards)
- request, receive and consider case histories, client service plans, progress reports on young people who are detained and parole progress reports
- request and consider special reports and court documents, for example, Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality reports, court transcripts from the Youth Parole Board secretariat and psychiatric and psychological reports
- interview young people for the purpose of granting parole and issuing warnings
- amend, cancel or vary conditions of parole orders
- make decisions concerning transfers between youth justice centres and transfers to prison
- prepare an annual report for the Minister for Community Services.



Meetings of the Boards

The Boards generally meet twice each month on a Monday. In 2013–14, 24 scheduled Board meetings were held. Both the Youth Parole Board and the Youth Residential Board meet on the same day and consider cases that are scheduled for the respective Board during the meeting.

In addition to scheduled meetings, ad hoc meetings are held to formally warn young people in relation to unsatisfactory compliance with parole conditions or unsatisfactory behaviour in custody. Ad hoc meetings may also be held to consider reports from the Department of Human Services to consider urgent cancellations and transfers of young people to prison. In 2013–14, the Boards conducted 39 ad hoc meetings that dealt with 45 matters.

During 2013–14, the Boards considered 2,478 matters during the 63 scheduled and ad hoc meetings held.

The Boards use the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as a base for their meetings. Where possible, they also hold some meetings at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre.

Prior to Board meetings, Board members read court transcripts, background information, psychological and psychiatric reports, progress reports and other information submitted by youth justice staff and other workers for each case to be considered at the meeting.

The Boards encourage youth justice and other staff who are working closely with young people to attend Board meetings to provide information and recommendations to the Boards.

The Boards interview each young person individually on the day they are released on parole to discuss issues that may impact on their ability to successfully complete their parole and to ensure that they clearly understand what the Board requires of them. The young person's parole officer attends the interview to support the young person and to hear the messages given to the young person by the Board so that these can be reinforced during the parole period.

Visitors

The Boards welcome the attendance at their meetings of visitors with a special interest in youth justice. The Boards require all approved visitors to adhere to procedures regarding the confidentiality of Board proceedings. Visitors receive an explanation of how the Boards perform their statutory responsibilities, and are able to observe their operation. Appendix 1 shows the range of interested individuals and agencies that have visited the Boards during this year.

The Boards are always pleased to have a young person's family members or other support persons attend the parole interview with the young person.

Parole orders issued by the Boards

In making decisions concerning parole, the Boards consider each case on its merits while using flexible guidelines to streamline the process and plan for the young person's release.

The Boards base their decisions on information from a range of sources including comments from the sentencing court and reports from custodial staff, parole officers, psychologists and psychiatrists, medical practitioners and other professionals working with the young person. The Boards also consider requests and plans put forward by the young people themselves.

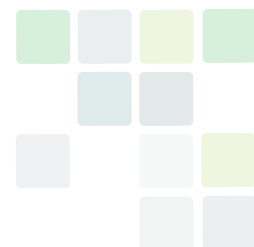
Factors considered by the Boards include:

- interests of/risk to the community
- victims' wellbeing
- interests of the young person
- age of the young person
- capacity for parole to assist the young person's rehabilitation
- intentions and comments of the sentencing authority
- the nature and circumstances of the offences
- outstanding charges/pending court appearances
- young person's criminal history
- previous community based dispositions and compliance
- family and community support networks
- release plans
- reports, assessments and recommendations made by a variety of professionals, including medical practitioners, psychologists, psychiatrists, custodial staff, parole officers and support agencies
- submissions made by the young person, the young person's family, their friends and potential employers.

The parole plan presented to the Boards by the parole officer must provide comprehensive information about the young person's plans for living in the community on parole. Most importantly, the Boards must be satisfied that suitable accommodation is available before granting parole.

Youth parole orders have core terms and conditions that are prescribed in the *Children, Youth and Families Regulations 2007* as follows:

- a) the parolee must not break any law
- b) the parolee must be supervised by a parole officer
- c) the parolee must obey any lawful instructions of his or her parole officer
- d) the parolee must report as and when reasonably directed by his or her parole officer
- e) the parolee may be interviewed by his or her parole officer at any reasonable time and place that the parole officer directs
- f) the parolee must advise his or her parole officer within 2 days after the change if the parolee changes his or her address
- g) the parolee must not leave Victoria without the written permission of his or her parole officer
- h) the parole officer of the parolee must not unreasonably withhold written permission under paragraph (g).



On the day of parole the Board interviews the young person and explains their conditions of parole. In addition to the core conditions of parole, there were 398 special conditions placed on parole orders in 2013–14 (see Table 5) compared to 309 in 2012–13.

At the end of the parole hearing, the young person signs their parole order indicating that they understand and consent to the expectations and conditions of parole.

The Boards directed the issue of 195 parole orders during the period, which is 36 less than the previous year (231).

Table 1: Parole orders issued by the Boards

Status	Number of parole orders issued by the Boards		
	2011–2012	2012–2013	2013–14
Females – youth justice centre	11	14	6
Males – youth justice centre	241	213	184
Females – youth residential centre	0	1	0
Males – youth residential centre	5	3	5
Annual total	257	231	195*

Note: Department data extracted 10 July 2014

* Of the 195 parole orders issued, 122 (63 per cent) were for sentences imposed by an adult court and 73 (37 per cent) were for Children’s Court sentences. While the overall number of parole orders issued has reduced by 16 per cent from 2012–13, the ratio of parolees sentenced in an adult court compared to those sentenced in a Children’s Court is the same as last year.

Warnings issued by the Boards

Warnings from the Board provide a young person with an opportunity to re-assess their behaviour and make changes that will result in successfully completing their sentence in a youth justice centre and/or on parole. Warnings are delivered firmly, but with the objective of motivating a young person towards positive action.

During 2013–14, the Boards interviewed 35 young people in relation to unsatisfactory behaviour in custody or non-compliance with parole conditions during their parole period.

For those in custody, the Boards discuss the young person's behaviour with them, set expectations for improvement and warn of possible actions by the Board including parole not being granted or transfer to prison.

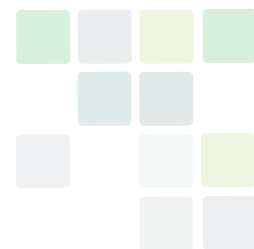
For those on parole, the reasons for failure to comply with the conditions are ascertained and discussed. Young people have the opportunity to put their case before the Board and are encouraged to work closely with their youth justice parole officer. The Boards emphasise the need to comply with conditions of parole and warn that further breaches can result in cancellation of parole.

The Boards also interviewed young people about other issues, such as aspects of their release plan, requests for transfers and issues concerning their offending behaviour.

Table 2: Warnings issued by the Boards

Year	Warnings issued by the Boards
2009–10	26
2010–11	40
2011–12	43
2012–13	31
2013–14	35

Note: Youth Parole Board secretariat data



Cancellation of parole

The Boards consider parole breaches to be a serious matter and often deal with such breaches by cancelling parole orders.

There are two types of breach considered by the Boards:

- breach by re-offending resulting in conviction and sentence (reconviction)
- breach by failing to observe conditions of the order, for example, failure to report to their parole officer or failure to comply with the special conditions of the order.

Under sections 456 or 460 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*, young people who breach parole can have their parole cancelled by the Boards. Cancellation of a parole order results in the issue of a warrant for the arrest of the young person who is then returned to custody in a youth justice centre to serve the unexpired portion of his or her original sentence. In some cases, the Boards may grant a credit for part of the unexpired sentence for the period the young person complied with their parole. In making this decision, the Boards take into account the nature of the breach and the young person's response to parole supervision.

If the Boards consider it appropriate, they can again release a young person on parole after his or her parole has been cancelled.

The Boards work closely with the youth justice parole service to devise flexible responses to difficulties experienced by young people in adhering to parole conditions. However, the young person's attitude and willingness to comply with supervision and addressing their problems plays a large part in determining the Boards' actions in these circumstances.

Cancellations by the Boards for the period 2013–14

The Boards cancelled 68 parole orders representing 35 per cent of parole orders issued (as a proportion of those released on parole in 2013–14), of which 34 were subject to Children's Court sentences and 34 were subject to adult court sentences. This number is less than the previous year when there were 73 cancellations.

The rate of parole cancellations continues to be significantly higher for the younger age group – 47 per cent for young people on Children's Court orders and 28 per cent for those on adult court sentences.

The difference in parole cancellation rates between young people subject to a youth justice centre order imposed through the Children's Court and those who had been sentenced in adult courts through the 'dual track' system has become an established trend. These outcomes illustrate young people's maturation as they progress towards adulthood and are in line with the principles underpinning the youth justice service, acknowledging that young people need to be treated differently from adult offenders due to their lack of maturity, propensity to take risks, susceptibility to peer influence, undeveloped consequential thinking and importantly, their capacity to be rehabilitated.

During the year there were fewer parole cancellations for offending (23) than for failure to comply with conditions of parole (45).

As in past years, in 2013–14 a large percentage of young people whose parole orders were cancelled had serious substance abuse problems. The abuse of alcohol and drugs remains a serious concern of the Boards, primarily due to its impact on the offending behaviour of young people but also because of the effect it has on their health and general wellbeing.

In some cases, the Boards cancelled parole where it was believed the young person was at serious risk of self-harm and unable to maintain themselves in the community without further offending.

Table 3: Parole cancellations issued by the Boards for Children's Court and adult court sentences

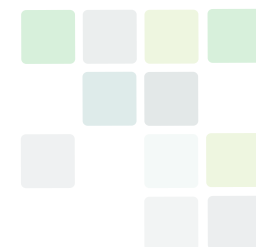
Jurisdiction	Number of parole cancellations		
	2011–2012	2012–2013	2013–14
Children's Court sentences	51 (69%)	40 (47%)	34 (47%)
Adult court sentences	36 (20%)	33 (23%)	34 (28%)
Annual total	87	73	68

Note: Department data extracted 10 July 2014

Table 4: Reasons for parole cancellations issued by the Boards

Reason	Number of parole cancellations		
	2011–2012	2012–2013	2013–14
Reconviction	36	25	23
Failing to comply with conditions	51	48	45
Annual total	87	73	68

Note: Department data extracted 10 July 2014



Parole plan

The parole plan is a report describing the current status and post-release plans of young people about to be paroled. The parole plan is prepared by the Department of Human Services' youth justice parole officer in consultation with the young person, the youth justice centre staff and significant others. Parole plans are developed in the context of the young person's client service plan. Assessment is based on interviews with the prospective parolee, parents, relatives, support service providers, prospective or current employers, teachers and other relevant sources.

The parole plan outlines arrangements to be put in place for the parolee in key areas such as managing the risk of re-offending, accommodation, education and/or employment, professional support (counselling), supervision and compliance with special conditions.

The officer submitting the parole plan, the youth justice centre staff and/or specialist support staff can recommend special conditions. These conditions can arise from the offending history, or from reports indicating specific problems likely to interfere with successful completion of the parole order.

In 2013–14, there were 398 special conditions imposed on a proportion of the total of 195 parole orders issued. There can be multiple conditions placed on a parole order.

Many young people being released on parole have a background of illicit drug use. The Boards encourage young people to seek treatment for their drug problem. During 2013–14, 126 parole orders, or 65 per cent of the total parole orders, had a special condition requiring the parolee to attend substance abuse treatment on the direction of their parole officer.

The Boards again note, with increased concern, that the mental health needs of young people within the youth justice system continues to be high. In 2013–14, 55 young people or 28 per cent who were paroled were subjected to a special condition in relation to psychiatric treatment and/or psychological counselling.

Special conditions that can be imposed, either singularly or in combination, include, but are not restricted to, those listed below in Table 5.

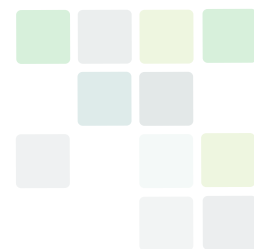
Table 5: Special conditions imposed by the Boards during 2013–14

Type of condition	Number of special conditions imposed by the Boards
Substance abuse counselling	126
Psychological counselling or psychiatric treatment	55
General counselling	36
Anger management/violence prevention	17
Attend the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality	7
Reside as directed	4
No contact with an individual	56
Not to attend a geographical location	56
Motor vehicle offending program	10
Others	31
Total	398

Note: Youth Parole Board secretariat data

Table 6: Special conditions for parole

Direction	Meaning
You must attend substance abuse counselling	The young person is to attend alcohol and/or other drug counselling, as and when directed by the parole officer.
You must attend anger management, psychological counselling and/or psychiatric treatment as directed	The young person must follow instructions from the parole officer concerning anger management, psychiatric treatment or psychological counselling. Usually some contact has been initiated with a counselling service in the community prior to parole and this should be continued, as appropriate. In other cases, the parole officer may refer the young person to appropriate services once parole has been granted.
You must reside as and where directed	The young person must reside at the place specified in the parole order and must not change address without prior agreement from the parole officer.
You must not have contact with X	The young person is to have no intentional physical contact or communication with specified person/s.
That you do not attend a geographical location	The young person is not to attend a specified location or premises.
You must attend the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality	The young person must attend, as directed, an intensive program for young people convicted of sexual offences.
You must attend a day or rehabilitation program	The young person must attend a day program or rehabilitation program such as education, training, work preparation or motor vehicle offenders program as directed by the parole officer.
You must submit for drug testing as directed	The young person must submit for drug testing as and when directed.
You must attend gambling counselling as directed	The young person must attend gambling counselling as and when directed by the parole officer.



Parole supervision

Youth parole officers have authority under section 453 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* to provide parole supervision for young people upon their release.

Youth parole officers are subject to the direction of the Boards in relation to parole orders made by the Boards. They are subject to the direction and control of the Secretary of the Department of Human Services in relation to any other duties and responsibilities they may have.

Youth parole officers are located at community-based youth justice units across Victoria to provide post-release supervision for young people on parole. There are close links between the youth justice centres and the youth justice units to ensure a consistent and appropriate response during the young person's sentence.

Parole supervision includes supporting and assisting the parolee to enhance connection to the community through family, accommodation, education, employment and recreation. It also involves monitoring parolee behaviour in the community, assessing attendance and performance at work or school, checking compliance with the conditions of the parole order and providing progress reports to the Boards as required.

Youth parole officers are instrumental in ensuring that young people are supervised and supported throughout their sentences, both in youth justice centres and in the community. Parole officers regularly visit young people in custody during their sentence to establish or maintain a relationship, collaborate with youth justice centre staff and begin release planning at an early stage of the sentence.

Parole officers are required to deal with very complex issues when young people are released into the community. Parole officers put an enormous amount of time and effort into setting up appropriate plans for young people preparing for their transition to the community, particularly locating appropriate accommodation for young people with high needs. The Youth Justice Community Support Service works in partnership with statutory workers and has been effective in providing services to support young people on parole and may continue to work with the young person beyond the expiry date of their parole order.

The Boards acknowledge the excellent quality of information provided in reports from parole officers and their efforts to challenge the behaviour and address the needs of young people with difficult to address, complex and pressing needs.

During the parole period, the Boards receive regular reports from parole officers about the progress of parolees. Some of the young people are seen by the Boards during their parole period to discuss issues that have arisen, to warn them about inappropriate behaviour or to acknowledge and reinforce positive steps they have taken.

Transfers

Sections 464 to 477 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* deal with the powers of the Youth Residential Board, Youth Parole Board and Adult Parole Board to transfer young people across services.

Table 7: Transfers issued by the Youth Parole/Residential Boards

Provision	Number of transfers issued by the Boards			
	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Transfer from youth residential centre to youth justice centre (sections 464 and 465 of the Act)	1	2	0	0
Transfer from youth justice centre to prison (section 467 of the Act)	9	7	10	4
Young person's request for transfer to prison (section 468 of the Act)	5	2	3	2
Transfer from youth justice centre to youth residential centre (section 470 of the Act)	1	1	0	0
Transfer back to prison after transfer from prison to youth justice centre (section 473 of the Act)	1	0	0	1
Person in youth residential centre sentenced to detention in youth justice centre or imprisonment (section 474 of the Act)	1	1	0	0
Person in youth justice centre sentenced to imprisonment (section 475 of the Act)	17	15	16	21
Person in youth justice centre sentenced to detention in youth residential centre (section 476 of the Act)	1	0	0	0
Person in prison sentenced to detention in youth justice centre (section 477 of the Act)	1	6	16	2
Annual total	37	34	45	30

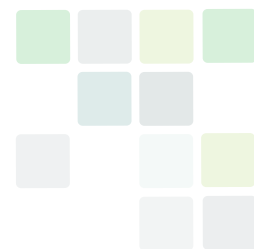
Note: Youth Parole Board secretariat data

Adult Parole Board transfers from prison to youth justice centre (section 471 of the Act)

Section 471(1) of the Act provides that, if the Adult Parole Board considers it appropriate, the Adult Parole Board may direct a young person under the age of 21 to be transferred to a youth justice centre from a prison. A report from the Secretary of the Department of Human Services concerning the suitability of the person for detention in a youth justice centre, and the availability of a place in a youth justice centre informs this direction.

Any young person transferred under section 471 of the Act comes under the jurisdiction of the Youth Parole Board for the duration of their sentence.

During 2013–14, the Adult Parole Board transferred two young people from prison to a youth justice centre under section 471 of the Act.



Overview

Characteristics of young offenders

The results of a snapshot survey carried out by the Department of Human Services of 134 males and 4 females detained on sentence and remand on 9 October 2013 shows:

- 41 per cent had previous child protection involvement
- 18 per cent had a current child protection order
- 60 per cent were victims of abuse, trauma or neglect
- 56 per cent had been suspended or expelled from school
- 27 per cent presented with mental health issues
- 26 per cent had a history of self harm or suicidal ideation
- 22 per cent presented with issues concerning their intellectual functioning
- 11 per cent were registered with Disability Services
- 89 per cent have a history of alcohol and/or drug misuse
- 78 per cent of cases had alcohol and/or drug use related to their offending
- 13 per cent were parents.

This profile is consistent with, and reflects, the comments made by the Boards in this report.

Case planning and reporting to the Boards

Youth justice staff and others submit a large number of reports to the Boards including assessments, custodial progress reports, parole plans and parole progress reports. These reports identify the needs and risks of the young people, detailing targeted interventions, goals, and progress made towards addressing problems and post-release plans. These reports are vital to providing information to the Boards to inform their decision-making. Consultation and coordination with other program areas such as Child Protection and Disability Services is a critical component of case management and planning. The Boards recognise the considerable workload involved and appreciate the professional skill and advice provided by the youth justice service and others to support the planning and decision-making for young people preparing for and on parole.

Involvement with child protection

The annual snapshot survey of young people in custody showed that 41 per cent of young people in youth justice centres had previous child protection involvement. Thirty-eight per cent of those sentenced to a custodial order through the Children's Court were currently a dual client of child protection and youth justice services. This compares with 36 per cent of community-based clients with a history of child protection involvement and 19 per cent who were currently a dual client.

The Boards consider it imperative that child protection and youth justice services work collaboratively to implement supports that will assist young people to overcome, as much as possible, the effects of traumatic, early in life experiences.

Earlier this year the Child Protection and Youth Justice protocol was revised and updated. The protocol provides a guide to collaborative working practices when a young person is involved with both systems.

Changes to health services and rehabilitation programs

Many young people appearing before the Boards have complex health and/or rehabilitation needs specific to alcohol and other drug misuse, mental health concerns and other offences. In addition to advice provided by youth justice case managers, the Boards rely on the specialist opinion of youth justice health services to guide decision-making about parole eligibility.

The Department of Human Services recently changed the way that it delivers youth justice health and rehabilitation programs to young people subject to a youth justice centre order. The department engaged a new service provider, the Youth Health and Rehabilitation Service (YHaRS) – a consortium of three agencies – the Youth Support and Advocacy Service, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and Caraniche.

The Boards welcome YHaRS and their expertise in delivering alcohol and other drug programs, physical and mental health services and offence related programs in secure settings.

The combined expertise of YHaRS agencies will streamline service provision and improve the coordination and delivery of critical services to young people. The Boards look forward to the development of a strong and collaborative relationship between youth justice workers and YHaRS that supports effective case planning for young people.

The Boards would like to acknowledge the good work of the clinicians of the previous providers, Adolescent Forensic Health Service and the Malmsbury Health Service, for providing comprehensive care to young people over many years.

Young people with disabilities

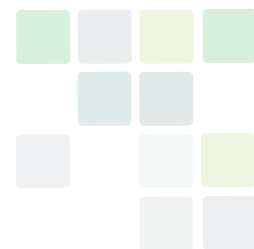
Young people with a disability continue to represent a significant number of those seen by the Boards each year. The annual snapshot survey of young people in custody showed that 11 per cent of young people surveyed were registered with Disability Services.

The Boards remain concerned that young people with a disability, including those with co-occurring disorders such as substance use and mental health problems, continue to be represented in high numbers in custody. While some examples of good practice exist, the Boards emphasise the need for youth justice and disability specific providers to work more effectively in partnership. This is critical to the earlier identification of young people with a disability, better day to day management of young people in custody and ensuring the active engagement of young people with disability services while they are in custody in preparation for their release on parole.

The Boards acknowledge the importance of the work of the Department of Human Services' Disability Advisor in youth justice centres to assist with coordination of services and strengthen the capacity of youth justice centre staff to support young people with a disability.

Mental health issues

Mental health problems continue to be a significant risk factor for young people who come before the Boards. The annual snapshot survey shows that 27 per cent of young people in custody presented with mental health issues. The effective treatment of mental health concerns is crucial to improve recovery, health and social outcomes, and reduce the likelihood of further offending. The Boards look forward to seeing the results of the work by YHaRS and the Youth Justice Mental Health Program to support young people experiencing mental health issues.



Alcohol and drug services

Alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse and use includes tobacco smoking, alcohol, and illicit and licit drug use. AOD misuse impacts long-term health outcomes. Also concerning is the significant and often very complex relationship between illicit or illegal drug use and crime.

AOD misuse continues to be a significant factor in offending behaviour for the vast majority of young people dealt with by the Boards. Rates of substance use amongst young people involved in youth justice are high and more prevalent than the general population. The annual snapshot survey showed that 78 per cent of young people in youth justice centres related their alcohol or drug misuse to their offending.

Addressing the harmful use of AODs by young people involved with youth justice is essential to help increase the chance of recovery and reduce the likelihood of further offending and harm to the community.

The Boards recognise and appreciate the good work and dedication of the youth justice staff and other stakeholders who provide assessment and treatment as early as possible in a young person's sentence. In saying this, the Boards consider that there is further scope to ensure that AOD treatment equips young people with strategies to decrease AOD use and recover from harm associated with its abuse. It is the Boards' expectation that the new health and rehabilitation provider, YHaRS, will expand on the good work being done to address young people's AOD rehabilitation needs.

Programs for young people who have sexually offended

The Boards continue to value and rely on the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality (MAPPS) to provide specialist advice in relation to treatment issues, community risk assessments and parole planning for young people who have sexually offended. Over many years MAPPS has provided individualised risk assessment and treatment to young people who sexually offend.

Young people and family violence

Many of the young people appearing before the Boards have been exposed to violence in the home during their childhood. Studies show that the trauma experienced by infants and small children exposed to this environment can harm the development of their brain and impair cognitive and sensory growth which can develop into longstanding problems. These children have trouble with school work, show poor concentration and focus and are at greater risk of substance abuse and criminal behaviour. Domestic violence research also indicates that children from violent homes exhibit more aggressive behaviour.

These issues are reflected in the level and severity of violent offending and the complex emotional, psychological and behavioural problems exhibited by many of the young people appearing before the Boards.

Some of the young people also have intervention orders against them in relation to family members and/or their partners which can add to the complexity of parole planning and the re-integration processes.

Violence prevention programs

A recent evaluation of a youth justice violence reduction program recommended the development of a tiered approach to programs targeting violent offending by young people. In response to these recommendations, a new program for young people sentenced for violent offences, the Adolescent Violence Intervention Program (AVIP), has been developed after being piloted at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct.

The Boards are pleased to learn that AVIP is being delivered at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre as part of YHaRS service provision. Many of the young people being detained in youth justice centres have committed violent offences and AVIP aims to reduce the recurrence of violence amongst this group of young people.

Responding to the impact of trauma and cumulative harm

The characteristics of young people in youth justice centres indicate many come from backgrounds of abuse and disadvantage. The annual snapshot survey showed that 60 per cent of young people were victims of abuse, trauma or neglect and 41 per cent had previous involvement with child protection.

A trauma-informed youth and family service system is one in which all parties involved recognise and respond to the impact of traumatic stress on those who have contact with the system. Services within such a system instil trauma awareness, knowledge and skills into their organisational cultures, practices and policies. They act in collaboration with those who are involved with the young person to facilitate and support the recovery and resilience of the young person and their family.

In 2012, the Department of Human Services' Office of Professional Practice developed the Best Interests Case Practice Model to provide a foundation for working with children, young people and families. This model is trauma-informed and reflects the child protection case practice model arising from the Children, Youth and Families Act and the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*. Designed to inform and support professional practice in family services, child protection and placement and support services, the model aims to achieve successful outcomes for children and their families.

The Boards are pleased that in 2014, the Best Interests Case Practice Model will be considered for adaption for the youth justice service to provide a trauma-informed approach, integrated with the Risk Needs Responsivity Model, to understand and work with young people involved in the criminal justice system.

Effective practice requires good working relationships between services in partnership with the family wherever possible – with the young person's best interests central to the intervention. The Best Interests Case Practice Model for the youth justice service will be based on a combination of sound professional judgement and an actuarial approach to risk assessment, together with a culture that is committed to reflective practice and respectful partnership with the young person, their family and other service providers.

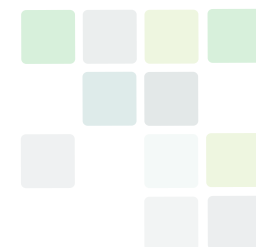
Young Aboriginal people

Thirty young Aboriginal people came under the jurisdiction of the Boards in 2013–2014, the same number as in 2012–13. Nine young people were from metropolitan Melbourne and 21 from rural Victoria. Sixteen of these young people had been sentenced through the Children's Court.

While the number of young Aboriginal people in youth justice custody remains comparatively low compared with previous years, the Boards continue to be concerned about the continued over-representation of young Aboriginal people in the youth justice system.

The department offers a range of early intervention and diversion programs for young Aboriginal people to minimise the likelihood of progression on to community-based or custodial orders. There is also a range of services and supports to assist them in custody and support their return to the community.

The Koori Early School Leavers and Youth Employment Program operates in Mildura and north western metropolitan Melbourne and aims to prevent adverse contact with the justice system by engaging young Aboriginal people (aged 10–20 years) with school or alternative educational, vocational or employment pathways to counteract disconnection or poor connection to school, training or work.



The Koori Pre and Post Release Program provides intensive outreach services to young Aboriginal people exiting Victoria's youth justice centres and facilitates referrals to accommodation and community culturally specific services.

The Koori Youth Justice Program aims to reduce the over-representation of young Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system by providing a range of culturally appropriate intensive support to reduce, divert and rehabilitate young Aboriginal people who are at risk of offending or re-offending. The Boards are pleased that a key element of this program is the availability of the Aboriginal Cultural Support workers at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre and Parkville Youth Justice Precinct. These staff support young Aboriginal people to strengthen connections with family and community and assist the Boards to understand the complexities of the young person's situation.

The fundamental aim of these programs is to support young Aboriginal people to access services that build strong links with their family and culture, engage them with their broader community and assist them to access activities, including education, training and employment.

In addition to the Aboriginal cultural support workers, Koori Youth Justice workers within the department provide pre and post-release support to young Aboriginal people, and support their contact with Koori Youth Justice workers employed by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. This network of staff, programs and supports across Victoria, provides a safe and culturally appropriate service for young Aboriginal people.

Table 8: Number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people who received youth residential and youth justice centre (YJC) orders during 2013–14

Type of order	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Number of young people
YRC Order 10–14 years	1 (50%)	1	2
Children's Court YJC Order 15–17 years	15 (17%)	75	90
Adult Court YJC Order 18+ years	14 (10%)	128	142
Total	30 (13%)	204	234

Note: A young person may be subject to more than one YJC order – includes young people on existing YJC orders who subsequently received a further YJC order in the reporting period.

Department data extracted 10 July 2014

Young people from Māori and Pacific Island backgrounds

The Boards note that 27 (12 per cent) of the young people sentenced to detention during 2013–14 were from Māori and Pacific Island backgrounds. This is a 29 per cent decrease from last year's figure of 38. Ten of these young people (37 per cent) were sentenced through the Children's Court, representing a 48 per cent decrease from 2012–13. Despite this decrease the Boards remain concerned about the continued over-representation of this group and that many of these young people have been convicted of serious violent offences and at times exhibit challenging and violent behaviour in custody.

In late 2011 the inaugural Larry Osborne Scholarship was awarded to report on developing strategies to better respond to the high number of Māori and Pacific Island young people in custody and serving community based orders. This report made six recommendations and the Māori and Pacific Island Project Reference Group is overseeing the implementation of these recommendations.

An overarching strategy has been developed to place the recommendations within the context of culturally responsive practice. The initial focus has been on implementing the recommendations that relate to youth justice centres to utilise the knowledge and expertise provided by the employment of a Polynesian cultural support worker.

A cultural education program has been introduced at Parkville and supported by Parkville College. The program is delivered by the cultural support worker in partnership with Māori and Pacific cultural organisations.

A Māori and Pacific Island youth justice network has been established to share information about culturally specific services and to develop a resource for youth justice workers that focuses on 'what works' in engaging Māori and Pacific Island young people and their families.

The Boards are pleased that guidelines have been developed to support the implementation of a family meeting pilot program.

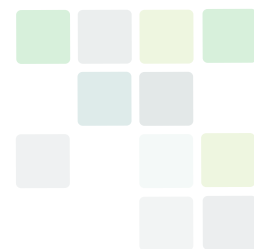
The focus is now on expanding client access for young Māori and Pacific Island people to the cultural education programs and providing staff with the 'what works' information to support their cultural understanding.

Education services for young people in youth justice centres

The Boards recognise the important role that education and training plays in parolees efforts to stabilise themselves in the community. They are pleased about the high quality of educational programs currently delivered by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The establishment of Parkville College at both the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct and Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre provides an integrated model of education which meets the individual learning needs of all young people.

Parkville College offers the full range of class options expected within any Victorian government school registered as a senior secondary and specialist school. The curriculum is aligned to the Australian education curriculum (AUSVELS), the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Most students at Parkville College undertake the VCAL. However, students who are enrolled in university are also supported at the college.



The curriculum at the Parkville campus provides six hours of education per day, Monday to Saturday, 52 weeks per year. Young people complete a variety of subjects including literacy skills, numeracy skills, sport, music/art and wellbeing instruction, along with vocational classes.

The curriculum at the Malmsbury campus provides young people with a minimum of 30 hours of education per week, 52 weeks per year and is divided between everyday classes of literacy and numeracy skills combined with vocational and industry related skills subjects. School operates from Monday to Friday with physical education classes on the weekend.

Additionally, the newly opened Flexible Learning Centre classrooms at 930 Park Street allows past students of Parkville College and other students from within Secure Services to continue with both formal and informal educational opportunities. This initiative supports students' integration into the community and mainstream educational institutions.

Employment support services

The Boards recognise the importance of supporting young people to establish links to income and employment support services prior to their release from custody. Mission Australia's WorkOut service has worked collaboratively with youth justice staff, Parkville College, Centrelink and other service providers to support young people to access appropriate training and employment options. Training and Employment Transition Workers have been established at both Malmsbury and Parkville Youth Justice Precincts to support effective referral pathways and undertake thorough assessments to ensure individualised placements for young people.

The Boards have witnessed a strengthening of suitable training and employment placements for young people leaving youth justice centres through the WorkOut service provided by Mission Australia.

In 2013–14 Mission Australia received 180 referrals from the youth justice service, to assist young people with training and employment opportunities.

Centrelink also assesses young people upon entry to custody to provide timely and appropriate support payments and services when they later transition into the community. Prior to a young person's release an Employment Service Assessment and a Job Capacity Assessment is conducted which facilitates a referral to Job Services Australia or a Disability Employment Service provider.

Temporary leave program

The Boards acknowledge that temporary leave granted to young people at the pre-release stage provides invaluable support for them to undertake employment or pursue education or vocational training. This support has proven to enhance a person's successful reintegration into the community.

The number of temporary leaves for 2013–14 decreased by nine per cent when compared with 2012–13. The Boards note that fluctuations may occur within a relatively small population and are confident this number will increase. It is vital that young people continue to have an opportunity to undertake this important preparation for their transition to the community on parole.

Post-release support services

The Youth Justice Community Support Service (YJCSS) provides individualised intensive support to eligible young people exiting youth justice centres.

Consortiums of community service organisations provide services across Victoria to deliver this intensive support and provide young people with access to employment, education, training, mental health, drug and alcohol support and transitional and housing support services. Lead agencies include Jesuit Social Services, Barwon Youth, St Luke's Anglicare, Centacare Ballarat, Salvation Army Brayton, Quantum Support Services and Mallee Accommodation and Support Service.

An evaluation of the YJCSS was completed in March 2013 and an action plan responding to the recommendations was developed to identify and prioritise changes to further strengthen the program. Areas for improvement include earlier identification and referral of young people in custody who will require intensive post release support, improved exit planning through formalised care-teams, outcomes focused support plans and broadening the availability and range of accommodation options available to young people at risk of homelessness on release.

The Boards remain interested in the outcome of this work and YJCSS is embedded as an important element, providing coordinated support and assistance to young people on parole. Importantly, the ability of YJCSS to remain involved with the young person beyond the completion of the sentence can directly impact on their successful transition to the community.

Accommodation

A priority for granting parole to a young person is the availability of suitable accommodation. The Boards are pleased with the joint initiatives between the department's youth justice and housing services to minimise the risk of homelessness on release. These initiatives include the Transitional Housing Management Youth Justice Housing Pathways Initiative which provides accommodation and linked intensive support in 55 dedicated transitional housing properties across the state.

The Youth Justice Homeless Assistance service provided by VincentCare continues to assist young people exiting youth justice centres to explore and develop early housing pathways prior to release when they cannot access dedicated youth justice transitional housing properties.

The Boards are interested in the work being undertaken to explore and expand the range of suitable housing options for young people involved with youth justice, including increased access to FOYER models across Victoria which can provide accommodation and support to young people while they participate in education or training. Also of interest is the current Innovation Action Project, 'Next Steps', provided by Jesuit Social Services as part of the Victorian Homelessness Action Plan. This provides supported accommodation to young people involved with youth justice as well as early intervention and family therapy, to prevent homelessness amongst at risk young people.

Given the importance of stable and secure accommodation in reducing the risk of reoffending, the Boards look forward to further reforms being undertaken as part of the Victorian Homelessness Action Plan.



Upgrading youth justice centres

The Boards welcome the progress that has occurred to address critical capacity, infrastructure and design issues within the youth justice precincts. The completion of the Yannibal Visitor Centre and upgrade of the Administration Building at Parkville Precinct has enhanced safety and security and has created a pleasant atmosphere for young people and their visitors.

The upgrade of residential units at the Parkville Precinct and security upgrades at Malmsbury have been completed and work is on track to complete the 45 bed centre at Malmsbury by mid 2015.

The Boards expect that addressing the critical capacity, infrastructure and design issues associated with the youth justice precincts will enhance safety and security, and will improve the experience for young people in youth justice centres.

Statistical supplement for the year ended 30 June 2013

Table 9: Releases and cancellations 2005–2014

Year ending	Releases on parole	Paroles cancelled – compliance*	Paroles cancelled -reconviction	Paroles completed	Persons on parole at this date
30 June 2005	199	48	17	125	108
30 June 2006	216	34	30	152	113
30 June 2007	207	33	24	114	108
30 June 2008	235	43	32	105	137
30 June 2009	210	47	26	134	110
30 June 2010	256	44	51	106	111
30 June 2011	240	44	36	103	136
30 June 2012	257	51	36	115	133
30 June 2013	231	48	25	112	126
30 June 2014	195	45	23	102	124

*Paroles cancelled because of failure to comply with conditions of parole.

Note: Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

As noted in the body of the report, during 2013–14 there was a 16 per cent decrease in the number of young people released on parole. This decrease was largely due to a significant reduction in the number of youth justice centre orders imposed on young people appearing before the adult courts. (See table 10)

Thirty five per cent of parole orders issued in 2013–14 were cancelled. This proportion has been relatively constant, ranging between 32 and 35 per cent in the three preceding years.

It is noted that some cancellations were for parole orders issued prior to the reporting period.

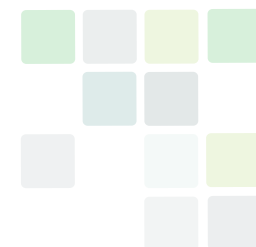


Table 10: Number of youth justice centre and youth residential centre orders

Year	Children's Court		Adult courts	Total
	Youth justice centre	Youth residential centre	Youth justice centre	
2003–04	252	41	382	675
2004–05	173	21	393	587
2005–06	214	27	369	610
2006–07	246	14	298	558
2007–08	264	24	387	675
2008–09	337	19	308	664
2009–10	358	32	391	781
2010–11	356	30	336	722
2011–12	299	13	371	683
2012–13	206	14	401	621
2013–14	193	13	272	478

Note: These figures include multiple orders for some individuals.

Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

During 2013–14 the total number of youth justice centre orders decreased by 142. This was due in main to a decrease of 129 youth justice centre orders imposed in the adult courts.

For the same period, there were 13 less youth justice centre orders issued by the Children's Courts.

Table 11: Parole orders issued and parole cancellations by division during 2013–14

Division	Parole orders issued	Parole orders cancelled
North	55	18 (33%)
West	69	19 (28%)
South	49	20 (41%)
East	22	11 (50%)
Total	195	68 (35%)

Note: Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

Table 12: Youth justice centre and youth residential centre orders issued by jurisdiction 2013–14

	Gender	Base order	Order to be served concurrently or cumulatively	Total
Children's Court: youth residential centre	Male	9	4	13
	Female	0	0	0
Children's Court: youth justice centre	Male	96	78	174
	Female	6	3	9
Magistrates Court	Male	71	139	210
	Female	4	3	7
County Court	Male	31	6	37
	Female	4	0	4
County Court of Appeals	Male	15	7	22
	Female	1	0	1
Supreme Court	Male	1	0	1
	Female	0	0	0
Subtotal	Male	223	234	457
	Female	15	6	21
Total		238	240	478

Note: Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

Table 13: Sentences commenced 1 July 2005 – 30 June 2014 overseen by Youth Justice

Type of order	05–06	06–07	07–08	08–09	09–10	10–11	11–12	12–13	13–14
Probation	777	945	940	1,076	1,198	1,127	957	892	811
Youth supervision	318	368	400	538	518	527	479	453	359
Youth attendance	87	82	73	108	125	115	80	66	85
Youth residential centre	14	10	24	9	12	12	6	9	9
Youth justice centre	277	270	255	269	342	305	317	294	229
Total	1,473	1,675	1,692	2,000	2,195	2,086	1,838	1,714	1,493

Note: Community based orders includes young people on multiple orders, if applicable.

Custodial sentences do not include additional concurrent or cumulative orders.

Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

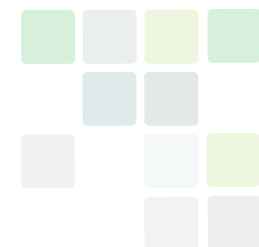


Table 14: Sentences commenced 2013–14 overseen by Youth Justice (individuals)

Type of order	2012–13	2013–14
Probation	659	599
Youth supervision	296	226
Youth attendance	45	47
Youth residential centre	6	2
Youth justice centre	262	198
Interstate custody order*	0	1
Total	1,268	1,073

Note: Young people who received more than one order in the reporting period and/or those with multiple concurrent orders counted once only.

Where a young person received two or more orders in the reporting period, only the highest tariff order is counted.

Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

Comment: Of the 198 young people subject to a youth justice centre order in 2013–14, 109 were sentenced through the dual track system and 89 were sentenced as children.

*young person sentenced in a New South Wales Children's Court and transferred to Victoria to serve their custodial order in a youth justice centre.

Table 15: Remand orders commenced 1 July 2005 – 30 June 2014

Type of order	05–06	06–07	07–08	08–09	09–10	10–11	11–12	12–13	13–14
Youth residential centre remand	88	100	170	123	133	137	181	158	144
Youth justice centre remand	203	281	368	439	526	467	585	559	601
Total	291	381	538	562	659	604	766	717	745

Note: Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

Youth justice/youth residential centre remand orders increased by 28 (four per cent) in 2013–14.

Table 16: Remand orders commenced 2013–14 (individuals)

Type of order	2012–13	2013–14
Youth residential centre remand	50	67
Youth justice centre remand	209	307
Total	259	374

Note: Young people who received more than one remand order in the reporting period counted once only.

Department data extracted 10 July 2014.

Appendix 1: Visitors to the Youth Parole Board and Youth Residential Board meetings during 2013–14

Gill Callister, Secretary, Department of Human Services

Magistrate Lesley Ann Fleming

Andrew Jakomos, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children
and Young People, Commission for Children and Young People

Chris Galea, Manager, Independent Visitor Program,
Commission for Children and Young People

Wayne Muir, Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Management and/or staff of:

Adolescent Forensic Health Services

Anglicare

Barwon Area Youth Justice (Geelong)

Bayside Peninsula Area Youth Justice (Frankston)

Berry Street

Bert Williams Centre

Brimbank Melton Area Youth Justice (Sunshine)

Brosnan Youth Services, Jesuit Social Services

Central Highlands Area Youth Justice (Ballarat)

Child Protection – Footscray, Geelong, Morwell

Disability Support Services, Department of Human Services

Eastern Health

Goulburn Area Youth Justice (Shepparton)

Hume Moreland Area Youth Justice (Broadmeadows)

Independent Visitor Program, Commission for Children and Young People

Inner Eastern Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Box Hill)

Inner Gippsland Area Youth Justice (Morwell)

INDIGO and Panorama Western Health Centre – Ballarat

Koori Youth Justice, Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative

Loddon Area Youth Justice (Bendigo)

Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre

Mallee Area Youth Justice (Mildura)

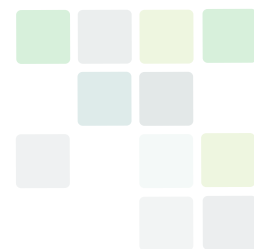
McKillop Family Services

Mission Australia

North Eastern Melbourne Youth Justice (Preston)

Office of the Public Advocate

Open Family (Frankston)



Outer Gippsland Area Youth Justice (Bairnsdale)

Outer Eastern Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Ringwood)

Ovens Murray Area Youth Justice (Wodonga, Wangaratta)

Parkville College, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Parkville Youth Justice Precinct

Secure Services, Department of Human Services

Service Development and Design, Department of Human Services

Southern Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Dandenong)

Take 2, Berry Street, Victoria

Western Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Footscray)

Western District Area Youth Justice (Warrnambool)

Wombat Housing

Youth Health and Rehabilitation Service

VincentCare

Youth Justice and Disability Forensic, Department of Human Services

Youth Support and Advocacy Service (YSAS)

Students on placement from:

RMIT

Eastern Health

Box Hill Institute of TAFE

Monash University

Holmesglen TAFE

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

South West TAFE (Warrnambool)

Barwon Area Youth Justice (Geelong)

Bayside Peninsula Area Youth Justice (Frankston)

Brimbank Melton Area Youth Justice (Sunshine)

Central Highlands Area Youth Justice (Ararat, Ballarat)

Inner Eastern Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Box Hill)

Inner Gippsland Area Youth Justice (Morwell)

Goulburn Area Disability Client Services (Shepparton)

Goulburn Area Youth Justice (Shepparton)

Loddon Area Youth Justice (Bendigo)

Mallee Area Youth Justice (Mildura)

North Eastern Melbourne Youth Justice (Preston)
North Eastern Melbourne Child Protection (Fitzroy)
Outer Gippsland Youth Justice (Bairnsdale, Sale)
Outer Eastern Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Ringwood)
Ovens Murray Area Youth Justice (Wodonga)
Southern Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Dandenong)
Western Melbourne Area Youth Justice (Footscray)
Western Melbourne Area Child Protection (Footscray)
Western District Area Youth Justice (Horsham)

