

PAROLE POLICY

POLICY NO. C26

ACT CORRECTIVE SERVICES



ACT
Government

Justice and Community Safety

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1 PURPOSE

ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is committed to ensuring a consistent, supported and monitored approach to the transition of Parolees from custody into the community and the ongoing supervision of their orders, with a view to promote community and victim safety, offender rehabilitation and human rights.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to Community Corrections staff members.

This Policy does not include details in relation to the preparation of Pre-Release Reports for detainees, for this information see the *Court Assessment, Pre-Sentence Report and Pre-Release Report Policy* and related Community Instructions.

3 DEFINITIONS

Parolee

A person who has been released from custody and is subject to a Parole Order for the remainder of their sentence. A Parolee must comply with their obligations as per S136 of the *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005* (the Act).

Parole Unit

A unit of Community Corrections which comprises of delegated Community Corrections Officers (CCO) and a Team Leader (TL). This unit is responsible for preparing pre-release reports, supervising offenders in the community on Parole and notifying the Sentence Administration Board (SAB) of any non-compliance.

Reasonable Direction

Any direction given either orally or in writing to an offender by a CCO or a TL under S138 of the Act. A reasonable direction must be necessary and relevant to achieving compliance with the Order or to address criminogenic needs.

Sentence Administration Board (SAB)

The SAB is the administrative body which makes decisions independently in relation to Parole. The SAB make decisions that are underpinned by appropriate legislation. It does not have the powers of a court. The Act establishes the SAB and is the primary legislative basis for its operations and decisions.

4 AUTHORITY

- 4.1 Community Corrections Officers (CCO), Team Leaders (TL) and Senior Managers are delegated as per the *Act* to:
- a. supervise the core and additional conditions of a Parole Order
 - b. provide reasonable directions to a Parolee
 - c. undertake home and field visits
 - d. direct an offender to provide a test sample for alcohol and/or drug testing purposes
 - e. notify the SAB of a Parolee's alleged non-compliance, or if the offender incurs further charges.

5 PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 ACTCS adheres to the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model which imparts that the greatest reductions in future criminal behaviour result from investing the greatest resources in those with the highest risk of recidivism.
- 5.2 ACTCS acknowledges the increased risk of re-offending during the initial release stage, as such clear planning and access to services is required to ensure a supported and monitored release.
- 5.3 In working with and providing services to offenders ACTCS adopts an approach that consciously draws on and implements throughcare principles of offender management.
- 5.4 Ensuring offenders have the support and skills they need to be successful after release from custody is a fundamental public safety interest.
- 5.5 The successful reintegration of offenders entering the community requires work by multiple government and private agencies. The closer ACTCS and community-based providers work together, the better they are able to provide a comprehensive suite of services that could not be provided by a single agency.

6 CASE PLANNING AND SUPERVISION

- 6.1 Case plans must be completed as soon as practicable and no later than six (6) weeks after an offender's release date. The goals and tasks of the case plan must be established in collaboration with the Parolee.
- 6.2 The CCO must advise the Parolee of the consequences associated with non-compliance in relation to both their case plan goals and other Parole obligations.

- 6.3 Case plans must be supported by criminogenic risk assessments. See Level of Service Inventory – Revised Community Instruction.
- 6.4 Case plans must provide the offender with a clear outline of the management of their Parole Order and include key risk factors, intervention strategies and realistic timeframes for completion.
- 6.5 Parole supervision must be structured around successfully meeting the goals and tasks outlined in the case plan and be relevant to the offender’s assessed risk, needs and responsivity.

7 NON-COMPLIANCE

- 7.1 CCOs must provide a written report to the SAB if they believe, on reasonable grounds, that an offender has breached any of the offender’s Parole obligations.
- 7.2 CCOs must appear before the SAB in relation to the written breach reports. For further details see the Breach Policy and related Community Instructions.

8 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Court Assessment, Pre-Sentence Report and Pre-Release Report Policy
- Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005
- Level of Service Inventory – Revised Community Instruction
- Breach Policy

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 Commissioner
 ACT Corrective Services
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