

Independent Review of the Governance and Operations of the Parole Board of Tasmania

Terms of Reference

Background

The Parole Board of Tasmania (the Board) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Corrections Act 1997* (the Act). Part 8 of the Act sets out the powers and functions of the Board.

In August 2026, a parole condition previously imposed on a parolee was removed after concerns arose, including a concern that a rationale document considered by the Board (the Rationale Document) contained inaccurate or unreliable material generated using artificial intelligence.

The circumstances raise broad questions about the existing governance and accountability arrangements the Board has in place to facilitate and support decision making within the legislative framework.

Issues or concerns that may amount to a breach of the State Service Code of Conduct do not fall within the scope of the Review and will be considered separately under applicable employment frameworks. The Review is systemic in nature and is not intended to duplicate or prejudice any such process.

If the Review obtains information that may warrant consideration by a regulatory, administrative or law-enforcement authority, the Review will, where lawful and appropriate, bring that information to the attention of the relevant authority.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of the Review is to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the existing governance, systems and procedures supporting the Board's parole decision making function and to recommend any reforms, within that specific context, required to strengthen the transparency and public accountability of Tasmania's parole system.

The Reviewer is to examine and report on:

1. whether there have been any other instances of inaccurate or unreliable material generated by artificial intelligence being presented to the Board in relation to matters before the Board;
2. the governance, and accountability arrangements applying to the Board, including the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board, its Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, Members and Deputy Members, and support staff;

3. the Board's decision-making processes and practices, including how it considers and scrutinises information provided to it, including any processes that support the development of documents by members of the Board or the Secretary to inform decisions, draws on the particular qualifications, skills and experience of its members, and reaches and records its decisions;
4. whether any deficiencies identified in the arrangements and processes examined under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 create a material risk to the integrity, fairness or soundness of the Board's consideration of matters or its decision-making processes; and
5. within the context of the above matters, any legislative, governance, policy, procedural, or training reforms required to strengthen the Board's operations and maintain public confidence in parole decision-making.

Conduct and limitations

The Review is to:

- respect the Board's statutory independence and the lawful exercise of its decision-making functions;
- have regard to relevant legislation, policies and professional standards;
- consider relevant practices of comparable parole authorities and other Australian jurisdictions;
- seek input from relevant Board members, experts and other persons; and
- comply with applicable confidentiality, privacy, information-security and legal professional privilege requirements.

The Board and the Department of Justice are to provide the Reviewer with all reasonable assistance and, to the extent permitted by law, access to relevant records and personnel. Other agencies and instrumentalities of the State are requested to provide equivalent assistance.

The Review may have regard to factual material lawfully made available from any related employment or professional process. However, the Review is not to:

- investigate or determine the individual responsibility regarding the Rationale Document;
- determine whether any individual has breached an employment, statutory or professional obligation; or
- prejudice any employment, regulatory or judicial process.

These limitations do not prevent the Review from identifying systemic implications arising from relevant conduct or recommending that a matter outside the Review's scope be considered by an appropriate authority.

Before making an adverse finding concerning an identifiable person or body, the Reviewer must provide that person or body with the substance of the proposed finding and a reasonable opportunity to respond.

Reporting

The Reviewer is to act independently in determining its methodology, findings and recommendations.

If the Review identifies an immediate or continuing systemic risk to another person or parole matter, the Reviewer is to advise the Secretary and the Chairperson of the Board without delay.

The Review is to provide a final report to the Attorney-General and Secretary of the Department of Justice. The report is to set out the Reviewer's findings and recommendations, including priorities and proposed timeframes for implementation.

The Review is, so far as practicable, to prepare the final report in a form suitable for publication in full without redaction.

Information that cannot lawfully or appropriately be published, but which the Review considers necessary to report, is to be contained in a separate confidential annexure provided to the Attorney-General and the Secretary. This may include (but is not limited to) information subject to statutory confidentiality or legal professional privilege, information whose disclosure could prejudice an employment, regulatory, investigative or law-enforcement process, information subject to a claim of public interest immunity, or information identifying victims of sexual offences.

The Reviewer is to create and maintain proper records of the Review and, on completion of the Review, deliver those records to the Department. Review records are to be managed, retained and disposed of in accordance with the *Archives Act 1983* and applicable requirements of the State Archivist.