



# Media release

4 February 2021

## **Parole Board Queensland conduct onsite meeting at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre**

*In a Queensland first, The Parole Board Queensland (PBQ) will convene an onsite board meeting at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre on 9 February 2021.*

*For the first time, parole matters for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners will also be attended by the relevant Community Justice Groups.*

*The President of the Parole Board Queensland, Michael Byrne QC said that the engagement of Community Justice Groups is an initiative of the Parole Board Queensland.*

*"The purpose is to ensure it is working with key stakeholders to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system by ensuring decisions are culturally sensitive," Mr Byrne said.*

*"We will propose that similar such meetings will occur at other prisons located northern and far northern Queensland in the in the near future."*

*PBQ was established as an independent fulltime professional board by the Queensland Parole System Review and is an important element of the criminal justice system.*

*The Board works in conjunction with Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) to protect the community.*

*For many prisoners, parole granted by the Board is the only way in which the prisoner can be released from prison, prior to their custodial end date.*

*Parole is not a privilege or an entitlement and is a method to reduce reoffending and plays an integral part in the criminal justice system.*

*Research supports that paroled prisoners are less likely to reoffend.*

*PBQ's highest priority when making objective, evidence-based and transparent parole decisions is the safety of the community.*

**ENDS**

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