



NEW ZEALAND  
PAROLE BOARD

**Annual Report 2020 – 2021**



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”

# Chairperson's foreword

The New Zealand Parole Board has conducted over 9,100 hearings in the last year. We see between 10-12 offenders each day and every week there is between one and four Boards sitting around New Zealand.

Board members read the background information about each offender they're to see. The information is extensive, typically from the hundreds to the thousands of pages for each person. In the last 12 months the Board has seen over 4800 offenders.

The workload is high, but we are committed to the safety of our communities and the successful and supportive reintegration of prisoners back into society.

We have remained flexible as COVID-19 continues to impact the world. During lockdowns we have operated out of Community Corrections sites and between prisons by using video conferencing facilities. I'm proud to say we have not missed any hearings while continuing to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone involved in the parole hearing process is a priority.

I meet regularly with the Department of Corrections which has a legal responsibility to provide support and information to enable the Board to make informed, evidence-based decisions.

Ongoing work around psychological reports and rehabilitation and reintegration support will benefit the people that come before the Board and ultimately provide strengthened pathways towards safe release into the community.

In June 2020 Deloitte was commissioned to validate the findings of an internal review of the NZPB support function, which has been operating for many years without significant change. As a result, the Board is supporting the implementation of a future operating model that will deliver fit-for-purpose tools and modern practices. This includes a technology uplift to respond to the unique requirements of the board members. The change programme is long overdue and will significantly and positively impact on the efficiency of the Board while providing a more effective and considerate service to victims.

This year the Board has bid farewell to Jim Thomson and Sue Driver. Jim was appointed as a member in 2002 and Sue in 2012. Both have given exemplary service to the Parole Board and to New Zealand.

I am pleased to say we have been able to attract some extraordinary candidates to work on the Board, with three new panel convenors and six members receiving their warrants. You will read more about our new colleagues in the following pages.

I also wish to welcome Karyn McLean as the new Board Manager. I thank the administration team for their work which allows the Board to do its job.



Sir Ron Young  
**Chairperson**



# Legal representation

Lawyers play an important role in parole hearings but too few people going before the Board have legal representation.

For offenders a lawyer can help with rehabilitation pathways and plans for reintegrating into the community, written submissions to the Board and other practical details. Significantly, they can ensure offenders have a good understanding of the parole process.

To increase representation and maintain openness and fairness the Board Chairperson has been engaging on a regular basis with both the New Zealand and Auckland District Law Society.

“We welcome lawyers at parole hearings. They provide considerable help to the Board as well as reassure members that an offender understands the process, and is putting their best foot forward,” said Sir Ron Young.

An important step in growing the level of representation has been to improve the process for lawyer approval and payment with the Legal Services Agency.

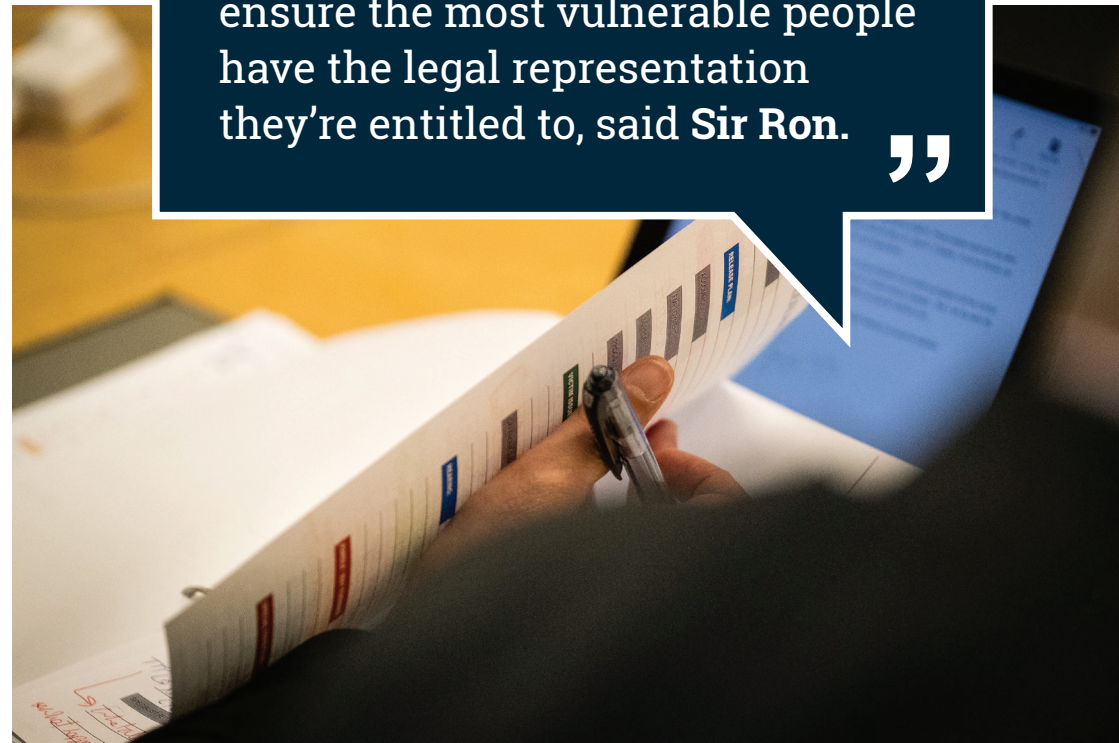
Work is ongoing to ensure an appropriate classification system for appointment as counsel before the Board; timeliness of payment; and payment where appropriate for instruction of private psychological or other specialist reports.

“In the year to come I look forward to continuing to work with lawyers to improve the parole process and ensure the most vulnerable people have the legal representation they’re entitled to,” said Sir Ron.

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# New Board Members



**Eight new members** have been appointed to the Board strengthening its Māori and Pasifika representation.

As well as their professional expertise the new members also bring a deeper understanding of the cultural issues faced by the people seen before the Board.



## What it means to be a member of the New Zealand Parole Board – **Sir Kim Workman**

*When a prisoner comes before members of the Parole Board their personal history comes along for the ride. Stories of childhood abuse, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, family violence, and repeat offending, are constant reminders that prisoners are often the product of whānau and societal failure.*

*Our role, however, is to ensure that we only release prisoners when it is safe to do so, when there is no undue risk to public safety. It's an important responsibility and not to be taken lightly.*

*The satisfying moments come when we meet someone who, despite their upbringing, are determined to change; who have taken every rehabilitative opportunity offered, cut themselves off from former criminal associates, and are surrounded by people in the community who will support them on release.*

*There are others who struggle or resist; we can help them by working with prison staff and service providers to forge a pathway toward change and possible release. It's a role which combines an awareness of legal duty with the exercise of compassion and creativity.*

# Year in review

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Hearings in total

**9,157**

Offenders seen

**4,891**



## Parole hearings

Total parole hearings **6,581**

Hearings for offenders on determinate sentences **6,056**

Hearings for offenders on indeterminate sentences **525**

Parole approved **1,652**

Parole granted for offenders on determinate sentences **1,575**

Parole granted for offenders on indeterminate sentences **77**

Offenders released on conditions on completion of their sentence.

*Their sentence has expired therefore these offenders cannot be recalled to prison for breaches.* **526**



## Recalls

Recall applications made by the Department of Corrections **613**

Recall applications for offenders on determinate sentences **549**

Number granted **356**

Recall applications for offenders on indeterminate sentences **64**

Number granted **39**



## Monitoring hearings

Monitoring hearings enable the Board to assess an offender's progress on parole **502**



## Extended Supervision Orders

Applications to vary parole conditions **253**

Successful applications **218**



### Extended Supervision Orders

Applications by Corrections for the Board to impose special conditions **41**

Biennial reviews of ESO conditions **100**



### Compassionate release

**Offenders who are terminally ill or who have given birth can apply to be released on compassionate grounds.**

Applications received **17**

Applications approved **13**



### Requests for an earlier hearing

Applications for an earlier hearing under section 26 of the Parole Act **208**

Cases heard earlier than scheduled **105**



### Victim submissions

**Verbal submissions made to the Board by registered victims.**

Verbal submissions made this year **187**



### Reviews

**Offenders can request to have their parole decision reviewed under 67 of the Act.**

Applications to review board decisions during the year **47**

Decisions that were then amended, quashed or referred to the Board for reconsideration **7**



### Parole postponement

**The Board can postpone a hearing for a maximum of five years where it is satisfied that, in the absence of any significant change in their circumstances, an offender will not be suitable for release when they are next due to be considered for parole.**

Parole postponements this year **4**



### Revocation orders

**The Board may revoke or amend a direction to release an offender at any time before parole commences. If a decision is revoked another hearing must be held as soon as practical. Revocations were higher this year due to the effects of COVID-19.**

Decisions revoked this year **51**

# New Board Members

Tania Sharkey	Tania has been in practice as a Barrister Sole since 2015 and currently Senior Counsel Assisting in the Royal Commission of Inquiry: Abuse in Care. She is the President of the Pacific Lawyers Association and is a current member of the New Zealand Law Society Legal Services Committee.
Carolina Tiumalu	Carolina is currently a legal assistance panel lawyer for the Royal Commission of Inquiry: Abuse in Care. Her legal career has included 18 months as a Deputy Registrar/Court Office at the Family Court in Manukau and 13 years as a lawyer in South Auckland.
Sir Kim Workman QSO (Ngāti Kahungunu, Rangitaane)	Sir Kim is a veteran criminal justice advocate and served as Families Commissioner between 2008 and 2011. He has been a long-time advocate of prisoners' rights and for reform in the criminal justice system. His career spans roles in the Police, the Office of the Ombudsman, State Services Commission, Department of Māori Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice.
Associate Professor Khylee Quince (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti, Porioru, Te Roroa)	Khylee has overseen academic and pastoral support for Māori and Pasifika law students for most of her 20-year academic career. Her core area of research focus is Māori and criminal justice – including imprisonment and female and youth offenders. She first dean of law at a New Zealand university of Māori descent.
Roku Mihinui (Tūhourangi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa)	Roku is the current chairperson of the Māori Reference Group. He was part of the successful negotiation team for this treaty claim and held the position of CEO for several years. As a social worker, he specialised in child protection and youth justice and helped write and deliver the Bachelor of Applied Social Science Kaupapa Māori Degree at Waiariki Polytechnic.
Serina Bailey	Serina is a Christchurch barrister working primarily as a criminal defence lawyer and also working in the mental health field. In this latter regard she is familiar with psychological and psychiatric reports and dealing with clients who have mental illness. She has appeared before the Parole Board on multiple occasions. Ms Bailey's early career was as veterinarian practice manager and she was a partner in a veterinary practice for 20 years
Annabel Markham	Annabel was admitted to the bar in 1995 and has over 25 years' experience, predominantly as a criminal lawyer. Prior to this appointment she was a Senior Crown Counsel in the Crown Law Office, specialising in difficult and complex criminal appeals.
Judge Jan Walker	Judge Walker has practiced law around the North Island and was previously employed as District Solicitor Maori Affairs in Rotorua. She was appointed as District Court Judge in 2005 and sat in both the North Shore and Auckland District Courts. She retired from the Bench in November 2020.



# New Zealand Parole Board Membership

## Chairperson

Sir Ron Young

## Panel convenors

Serena Bailey	Judge Louis Bidois	Judge Charles Blackie
Tania Williams Blyth	Martha Coleman	Judge Michael Crosbie
Geoffrey Ellis	Phil Gittos QSO	Judge Jane Lovell-Smith
Annabel Markham	Judge David Mather	Neil MacLean QSO
Mary More	Judge Eddie Paul	Alan Ritchie
Kathryn Snook	Judge Arthur Tompkins	Neville Trendle
Judge Jan Walker	Sir Ron Young – Chairperson	

## Forensic psychiatrists

Associate Professor Philip Brinded	Dr Jeremy Skipworth	
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## Community members

Chester Borrows	Karen Coutts	Greg Coyle
Materoa Dodd	Dr Sally Davis	Paul Elenio
Alan Hackney	Douglas Hauraki	Chris King
Marian Kleist	Roku Mihinui	Bryan McMurray
Sam Perry	Fiona Pimm	Michael Quigg
Associate Professor Khylee Quince	Campbell Roberts	Paula Rose QSO
Tania Sharkey	Alistair Spierling	Waimarama Taumaunu
Lawrence Tawera	Carolina Tiumalu	Sir Kim Workman











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 [www.paroleboard.govt.nz](http://www.paroleboard.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government