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**Parole Board Queensland**  
GPO Box 1054  
Brisbane Queensland 4001  
Telephone: 07 3565 7567  
Email: [ParoleBoardQLD@pbq.qld.gov.au](mailto:ParoleBoardQLD@pbq.qld.gov.au)

Her Honour Judge Deborah Richards  
Commissioner  
The Commission of Inquiry into  
Queensland Police Service Responses to  
Domestic and Family Violence  
PO Box 12264  
George St  
Brisbane QLD 4003

**By Email – [documents@qpsdfvinquiry.qld.gov.au](mailto:documents@qpsdfvinquiry.qld.gov.au)**

Dear Commissioner,

**RE: Parole Board Queensland Submission to the Commission of Inquiry into  
Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence.

The Parole Board Queensland ('the Board') plays an essential role in preventing domestic and family violence in the Queensland community. A significant proportion of prisoners and offenders sentenced to community-based supervision have a history of domestic violence offending or are currently serving a sentence for domestic violence, including for breaches of domestic violence orders.

The Board is comprised of members representing different areas of expertise in criminal justice, including Police Inspectors who represent the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The QPS members of the Board each bring with them enormous experience dealing with domestic violence.

The information sharing arrangements established between the Board, QPS and the QCS Intelligence Group are essential to ensuring that the Board is able to make fully informed decisions on parole matters. QPS members of the Board have access to up-to-date police investigation information and police intelligence reports. Without access to this information and the expertise QPS members contribute to the Board's assessment of risk, the Board's ability to adequately consider domestic violence related matters would be greatly diminished.

In assessing the risk that a prisoner poses to a particular victim/aggrieved, the Board relies on information provided by QPS, including, in relevant cases, advice from High Risk Domestic Violence Teams.

### **Domestic violence committed from custody**

The Board frequently receives information relating to the perpetration of domestic violence by prisoners while they are incarcerated. Acts of domestic violence by prisoners are usually carried out by means of the Prisoner Telephone System (PTS).

Examples of domestic violence committed by prisoners includes:

- contact with aggrieved and named persons in contravention of domestic violence orders, usually by PTS;
- threats made directly or indirectly to victims by a prisoner, usually by PTS;
- coercive and manipulative behaviour, including for example, pressure on a victim to allow a prisoner to reside with a victim or to send money to a prisoner;
- using family or associates in the community to contact and or surveil victims;
- making degrading comments about a victim;
- other information which raises concerns regarding the safety of a victim.<sup>1</sup>

Information about a prisoner's domestic violence behaviour is essential to the Board's assessment of a prisoner's suitability for release on parole (or, in the case of parole suspensions, re-release) and any conditions which may reduce the risk that the prisoner will commit domestic violence upon release.


While the Board acknowledges that prisoners are occasionally prosecuted for committing domestic violence offences from custody, the Board is concerned with the apparently low rate of prisoners being charged in relation to committing domestic violence from custody.

### **Information for parole planning**

The information provided by QPS representatives is essential to the Board's formulation of order conditions, which may include conditions mandating engagement with DFV counselling services and intervention programs, monitoring relationships of DFV offenders and prohibiting contact with victims.

Thank you for considering this submission. The Board would be pleased to provide any further information which may be of assistance to the Commission of Inquiry, whether in response to written questions or in interview by the Commission's officers.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Byrne QC  
President

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<sup>1</sup> The victims of domestic violence committed by prisoners may or may not be the aggrieved of a current domestic violence order with a prisoner named as the respondent.