

Question on Notice

No. 1930

Asked on Wednesday, 25 November 2009

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations (Mr C R Dick) -

QUESTION:

With reference to court ordered parole –

- (1) How many offenders were granted this parole in 2007-08 and 2008-09 (reported by year)?
- (2) How many court ordered parole orders were made in 2007-08 and 2008-09 where the offender was released immediately upon the order being made?

ANSWER:

The *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* requires a judicial officer to fix a parole release date or a parole eligibility date, depending on a number of factors, including the type of offence and the length of imprisonment ordered. In determining an appropriate sentence in any case, a judicial officer takes into account a wide range of factors, including the antecedents of the accused and all the circumstances of the case.

I am advised that there were 11,430 defendants granted court ordered parole in 2007-2008 and 11,019 in 2008-2009. I am advised that of these numbers, 70% of the total number of defendants in 2007-2008 and 79% of the total number of defendants in 2008-2009 were the subject of parole orders made by the Magistrates Court which, in general terms, deals with lower-order criminal offences.

I am advised that the number of defendants released immediately on court ordered parole orders in 2007-2008 was 4067 and in 2008-2009 was 4705. I am advised that of these numbers, 70% of relevant defendants in 2007-2008 appeared in the Magistrates Court and 76% of relevant defendants in 2008-2009 appeared in the Magistrates Court which, in general terms, deals with lower-order criminal offences.