

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1000**  
**Asked on 24 August 2023**

**MR M BERKMAN** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to accommodation for people leaving prison—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many people have been granted parole subject to accommodation, or pending bed availability at approved accommodation, but are currently waiting in prison, (i) how many days have these people spent in custody awaiting suitable accommodation, (b) how many people are currently in prison on a parole suspension who would otherwise be re-released if they had suitable accommodation, (c) during the 2022-23 financial year, how many prisoners were granted parole by the Parole Board of Queensland subject to suitable accommodation or pending bed availability at approved accommodation, (i) how many days did they spend in custody beyond a grant of parole and (d) how many social homes are currently available for parolees and people leaving prison, including homes dedicated specifically for parolees who are also subject to DFV victimisation?

**ANSWER:**

It is a requirement of a parole application for a prisoner to nominate a proposed address for post-release accommodation. This is for important community safety reasons to ensure prisoners are not being released on parole to locations which would put a victim or another cohort of the community at an elevated risk. Reasons why a nominated address may be considered unsuitable for release may include being located too close to a victim, it not being conducive to the rehabilitation of a prisoner, the existence of a court order such as a Domestic Violence Order prohibiting the prisoner living there, or due to the resident or accommodation provider not providing consent for the prisoner to reside there. If Parole Board Queensland (the Board) is not satisfied that the accommodation is appropriate for managing risk then, of course, it is not in the interests of community safety for that prisoner to be paroled to that address.

I am advised by the Board and Queensland Corrective Services:

- a) As at 25 August 2023, the number of prisoners who have been granted parole subject to suitable accommodation but remain in custody, is 213 people.
  - i. The average number of days these prisoners have spent in custody awaiting suitable accommodation is 68 days.

Prisoners may apply for parole up to 180 days before their parole eligibility date. In these instances, the Board may consider their matter before they are eligible for release and may grant release from any date not earlier than their parole eligibility date. The Board may grant a parole order subject to obtaining suitable accommodation. The number of people to be released to parole subject to

accommodation being approved by the Board and the average number of days spent in custody, shown in the figures above, are inclusive of people who had been granted parole but had not yet reached their parole eligibility date.

- b) As at 25 August 2023, the number of people who are currently in prison on a parole suspension, who would otherwise be re-released if they had suitable accommodation, is 126 people.
- c) I am advised parole grant 'subject to' decisions are recorded as interim decisions on the current integrated offender management system, later recorded as final decisions once required further information is obtained (in this case approved accommodation). There is no current ability to obtain data for interim decisions made by the Board across a financial year within the existing system. I am advised any ability to obtain this data would involve a manual review of thousands of matters, which is considered by the Board to be an unreasonable use of resources at this time.
- d) As information relating to social housing availability is the responsibility of another government department, the Member should refer this part of the question to the relevant Minister.