

Important information about Parole Board Hearings



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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



When the Parole Board make decisions about whether people in prison can get parole, they have to think about:

- Community safety
- The risk that your whānau member would commit a new offence - break the law again or not
- The seriousness of any new offences – how much harm they might do.



You get an opportunity tell the Parole Board what you think. You can:

- Write a submission. A submission is a letter that tells the Parole Board anything you think they need to know before they make a decision
- If you go to the Parole Board hearing you can ask them if you can speak. They might say yes. They might say no.



Victims are given the chance to tell the Parole Board what they think too. Victims can:

- Write a submission
- Speak to the Parole Board. There is a special hearing for victims who want to talk to the Parole Board. You cannot go to that special hearing.



The Case Manager in prison can:

- Give you more information
- Answer your questions
- Make sure you know about important dates.



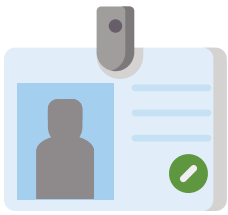
Lawyers

- Your whānau member might want their lawyer to come to their Parole Board hearings. If so, your whānau member needs to tell the Parole Board
- Legal Aid might pay for their lawyer to come to the hearing. They might not pay. Your whānau member has to ask their lawyer about this.

Please remember:

Your whānau member might get parole or they might not.

If your whānau member does not get parole, they will get other chances for parole later on. The Parole Board will tell your whānau member when that might happen.



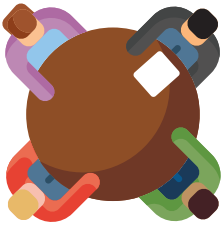
Arriving at a prison

Everyone gets searched.

You will need to show your ID e.g., driver license, community services card.

We are sorry but:

- You can't bring things like food, cell phones with you. You can't wear patches
- Children are not allowed to come to Parole Board hearings.



Going in

The Parole Board panel will already be in the room.

Whānau, the case manager, and corrections officers all go into the room together.

Your whānau member goes into the room a different way – you might not see them before the hearing.

The hearing

The Parole Board will introduce themselves.

You can ask them if you can start the hearing with a mihi, pepeha etc. They might let you.

The Parole board might speak to:

- Your whānau member
- Case manager
- Corrections officer
- Whānau – you can ask them if you can speak.

They want to find out about things like:

- How things are going in prison – behaviour, courses
- Plans to keep your whānau member on track if they get parole.

Waiting room

You will go into the waiting room while the Parole Board talk to each other.

When they make their decision they will call everybody back into their room.

Decision

The Parole Board will tell everybody their decision.

No parole

They will say when there will be another Parole Board hearing.

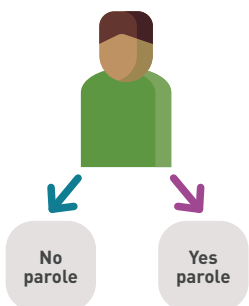
You might be disappointed. It might help to go home and talk about it with your whānau or friends.

Yes parole

They will say:

- The date your whānau member will be released
- Outline the release conditions your whānau member will get.

The Parole Board hearing might take 30 minutes. Some hearings are shorter. Some hearings are longer.





Before the Parole Board hearing



Four months before the Parole Board Hearing your whānau member in prison gets the date for their Parole Board Hearing.

If your whānau member wants you to go to their hearing they need to:

- Ask you to go to the Parole Board hearing
- Tell you the date
- Tell the Parole Board that you are coming. The Parole Board will put your name on their registration list (their list of people who are coming to the hearing). If you aren't on the Parole Board's list you cannot go to the hearing.

Your whānau member can only ask 3 people to go to their Parole Board hearing. If your whānau member does not ask you to go the Parole Board hearing you cannot go.

Preparing yourself for the Parole Board hearing



You might find it helpful to talk to someone who has already been to a Parole Board hearing. Maybe your whānau or friends know someone who has been to one. They might tell you what the Parole Board hearing was like for them.



You can write a submission for the Parole Board hearing. A submission is a letter that tells the Parole Board anything you think they need to know before they make a decision. For example, you might want the Parole Board to know things like:

- You have sorted out an address for your whānau member
- You've found a community-based service that will help your whānau member stay on track and out of trouble
- Other support your whānau can provide for your whānau member.



Sometimes you get the chance to say this at the Parole Board hearing too. If you go to the Parole Board hearing, you can ask the Parole Board if you can speak to them. They might let you. They might not.



Talk to the case manager in prison. They can help you to know important:

- Dates e.g. the date of the hearing and the deadline for your submission (the date it has to be in by)
- Information e.g. how the Parole Board works, what you can expect when you are at a Parole Board hearing etc.