

How to Show Cause

Have you been issued with a letter or Information Notice from Parole Board Queensland (the Board) asking you to “show cause”?

The information below is provided to assist you understand why you have been asked to show cause and how you can properly prepare your show cause response.

Examples

The most common examples where a prisoner will be asked to Show Cause are as follows:

Current parole application – concerns regarding custodial behaviour

- Where you have been subject to further incidents and/or breaches whilst in custody where you have a current parole application before the Board – for example where you have:
 - returned a positive test result for drugs
 - assaulted another person
 - possessed a prohibited item
 - committed acts of domestic violence against another e.g. as evidenced by prison telephone system records

Parole suspended – concerns regarding your failure to comply with the order

- Where your parole is suspended and the Board has evidence of you:
 - committing further offences;
 - failing to comply with the parole order by:
 - failing to report
 - testing positive to illegal substances
 - consuming alcohol where prohibited by order
 - failing to reside at an approved address
 - making contact with persons prohibited by order
 - removing your electronic monitoring device
 - failing to comply with your curfew
 - committing acts of domestic violence.

Parole cancelled – concerns regarding your failure to comply with the order

- Where your parole has been cancelled as a result of:
 - Being convicted of committing further offences whilst on parole
 - Returning positive test results for drug use
 - Failing to remain engaged with Community Corrections – not reporting as required, changing address without permission
 - Failing to comply with curfew requirement
 - Removing your electronic monitoring device

What are the Board’s key considerations?

The Board’s highest priority is always the safety of the community.

The Board is therefore required to examine whether you may pose a risk to the community.

In providing submissions to the Board you need to address the basis upon which you have been asked to show cause.

Did you commit further offences?

- What were the circumstances that led to you committing the offences?
- What would you do differently?
- What is your plan to stay on track?

Did you fail to comply with your parole order?

- If so, why did you fail to comply?
 - What were the circumstances that led to you failing to comply?
 - What would you do differently next time?
 - What is your plan to stay on track?

Each matter will be considered on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the evidence before the Board.

The weight attached to each factor considered by the Board may be different depending on the individual circumstances of the matter the Board is considering.

Timeframes for providing your submission to show cause:

If your parole has been suspended or cancelled – you are required to provide a written submission to the Board within 21 days of receipt of your Information Notice.

If you have a current application for parole under consideration – your matter will be deferred for a reasonable period of time for you to respond.

Extension of time requests:

If you require further time to provide your submission – please write to the Board to request an extension of time, nominating the further period of time you require. The Board will consider your application and provide a response. In most cases an extension of time will be granted for a reasonable period of time.