



## Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

Ref: QCS-03480-2024  
Your Ref: A1335339

1 William Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 826  
BRISBANE QLD 4001 Australia  
**Telephone: +61 7 3719 7360**  
**Email** [fdrc@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:fdrc@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
Cnr George and Alice Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter dated 21 August 2024 about Petition Nos. 4032-24 and 4150-24 tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 20 August 2024.

The petitions draw to the attention of the House a matter regarding prisoner Francesco Surace seeking the urgent need for the Parole Board Queensland (the Board) to reject any application for parole submitted by this prisoner, requesting the House do all in its power to ensure the Board is urged to deny any application for parole.

In providing my response pursuant to standing order 125, I would like to commence by thanking the petitioner for informing members of this matter and extend my deepest condolences to the victims of this offence, their families, as well as others impacted by the actions of this prisoner and the harm he has caused.

While the Board is established under Chapter 5 of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* and sits within my portfolio as Minister for Corrective Services, the Board operates as an independent statutory authority and makes objective, evidence-based decisions, with its highest priority always the safety of the community.

With this, decisions made by the Board are unable to be directed or influenced by the Minister. To support the Board in performing its functions however, Ministerial Guidelines to the Parole Board Queensland have been implemented, which provide guidance in respect of information and matters the Board should have regard to in its decision making related to parole matters.

When considering whether a prisoner should be granted parole, the Board will consider all relevant material before it to make its decision, which can include submissions made by victims of the prisoner's offence or their family members as eligible persons registered with the Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Victims Register.

The QCS Victims Register supports victims and eligible persons by informing them about important events in the sentences of the prisoner they have registered against. Once registered, eligible persons receive the prisoner's sentencing information and additional updates throughout their sentence, and if a prisoner they are registered against applies for parole, they will be invited to make a submission to the Board.

Submissions by anyone from the community about a prisoner's application for parole are also able to be made to the Board for its consideration of a prisoner's parole application, and may be provided to the Board via email [ParoleBoardQLD@pbq.qld.gov.au](mailto:ParoleBoardQLD@pbq.qld.gov.au).

I appreciate this is a distressing time for the victims and their families, and I want to again convey my appreciation to the petitioners for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I will also forward a copy of the petitions to the Board for its awareness.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nikki Boyd' followed by a period.

The Honourable Nikki Boyd MP  
**Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and  
Minister for Corrective Services**