

# Are you serving a sentence for a Commonwealth offence?

A guide to parole



**Are you serving a sentence for  
a Commonwealth offence?**

**Did you get a letter about  
your parole?**

**Get legal advice straight away.**

**Read this brochure to find out  
what to do.**

# What do I need to know about Commonwealth parole?

There are two different systems for parole in NSW. The NSW system and the Australia wide system.

The decision about parole in the NSW system is made by the State Parole Authority. The decision about parole in the Australia wide system is made by the Attorney General or their delegate in Canberra. The Commonwealth Parole Office is the department that puts information together for the decision maker.

If you are serving a sentence under Commonwealth law and your total term is over three years, release on parole is not automatic. The Attorney General or their delegate will decide your parole.

If you get a letter from the Attorney General or the Commonwealth Parole Office about your parole, speak to Legal Aid NSW straight away. Don't ignore the letter, even if the staff at the gaol tell you that you don't need to do anything. If you ignore the letter, you will be refused parole. Legal Aid NSW can help you write a response to the letter.

Even if you have not yet received a letter, it is best to contact Legal Aid NSW for advice at least three months before you are eligible for parole.

# How can I improve my chances of getting parole?

There are some ways that you can improve your chances of getting parole.

## Good behaviour

- Be of good behaviour and work hard. Good case notes will help you.

## Courses

- Do all the courses available to you, especially if you had a drug addiction or gambling problem before your arrest.
- You may be refused parole if you do not do rehabilitation programs.
- If no courses are available to you, keep notes of your requests to do courses. Keep any documents about waiting lists or cancellation of courses.

## Attitude

- Your attitude to your past offending is important. What you say about your offence could be used against you.
- Doing rehabilitation programs can help with this.

## Planning

- Try to have a plan for your release, even if you are going to be deported.
- Make a plan for where you will live and your support in the community.

- If you need public or community housing make an application.
- Think about your plans several months before you are due for parole.
- You may be refused parole if you don't have a plan.

## What is a pre-release report?

This is a report about you that is sent to the Commonwealth Parole Office.

This is what will happen:

1. You will be interviewed by the parole unit or community corrections office.
2. The interview will happen several months before the end of your non-parole period.
3. You will be asked about your attitude to your offence and your plans for release.
4. If you have prison charges against you, you will be asked to explain them.
5. The report will be sent to the Commonwealth Parole Office.
6. The Commonwealth Parole Office look at the report when making a decision about your parole.

### **Important!**

The Commonwealth Parole Office can refuse you parole even if the report recommends your release.

## How will I know if my parole might be refused?

You will be told if your parole might be refused.

This is the process:

1. You will get a letter from the Commonwealth Parole Office telling you that your parole might be refused.
2. The letter will tell you the reasons why your parole might be refused.
3. The letter will ask you to have your say in writing before the final decision is made.
4. You can ask Legal Aid NSW for help when you get this letter.

## What if my parole is refused?

There is no right of appeal, but judicial review might be available. Get legal advice without delay.

This is the process:

1. You will receive a notice of refusal of parole from the Commonwealth Parole Office.
2. You should call Legal Aid NSW as soon as possible for help.
3. Legal Aid NSW will look at your situation and tell you if you can ask for an early reconsideration of the decision.

4. The Commonwealth Parole Office must reconsider your parole within 12 months of refusing parole.
5. You will not go to court to get parole. Everything will happen by letters.

## How can Legal Aid NSW help me?

If you get a letter from the Attorney General or the Commonwealth Parole Office, Legal Aid NSW can help you respond.

If you want to send your own letter, you can get help from Legal Aid NSW about what to say.

## How to contact us

Prisoners can contact Legal Aid NSW on the the prison Common Auto Dial List (CADL) phone system as a free call.

Press **#2** and say that you want legal advice about Commonwealth parole. Your details will be passed on to the Commonwealth Crime Unit at Legal Aid NSW.

Friends and family of prisoners can contact the Commonwealth Crime Unit at Legal Aid NSW on **(02) 9219 5076** or Prisoners Legal Service on **(02) 9066 6046**.

## Arabic

هل تقضي مدة حكم صادر بحقك بشأن جريمة بما يخالف القوانين الفدرالية أو قوانين الكومنولث؟  
هل تلقيت رسالة بشأن الإفراج المشروط عنك؟  
احصل على مشورة قانونية فوراً.

بإمكان هيئة المساعدة القانونية مساعدتك على مراسلة مكتب الإفراج المشروط التابع للكومنولث. وحتى لو قمت بإرسال رسالة بنفسك، يظل بإمكانك الحصول على المشورة متى.

### كيفية التواصل معنا

يمكن للسجناء الاتصال بهيئة المساعدة القانونية في نيو ساوث ويلز من خلال نظام الهاتف الخاص بقائمة الاتصال التلقائي المشتركة (CADL) كمكالمة مجانية.

اضغط على الرقم **#2** وقل بأنك تريد الحصول على المشورة القانونية بشأن الإفراج المشروط بخصوص جرائم الكومنولث. سيتم تحويل تفاصيلك إلى وحدة جرائم الكومنولث في هيئة المساعدة القانونية في نيو ساوث ويلز.

يمكن لأصدقاء وأسر السجناء الاتصال بوحدة جرائم الكومنولث في هيئة المساعدة القانونية في نيو ساوث ويلز على الرقم:  
**(02) 9219 5076** أو بالخدمة القانونية للسجناء على الرقم:  
**(02) 9066 6046**.

## Farsi

آیا شما در حال گذراندن یک دوره مجازات برای یک جرم فدرال یا کامانولث هستید؟  
آیا نامه ای در مورد آزادی مشروط خود دریافت کردید؟  
فورا مشاوره حقوقی بگیرید.

لیگال اید می تواند به شما در نوشتن به دفتر آزادی مشروط کامانولث (Commonwealth parole Office) کمک کند. حتی اگر شما نامه شخصی خودتان را ارسال می کنید، هنوز می توانید از ما مشاوره بگیرید.

### چطور با ما تماس بگیرید

زندانیان می توانند با لیگال اید نیوساوت ولز (Legal Aid NSW) در سیستم تلفنی فهرست شماره گیری خودکار مشترک (CADL) بطور رایگان تماس بگیرند.

شماره **#2** را فشار دهید و بگویید که می خواهید درباره آزادی مشروط کامانولث (Commonwealth parole) مشاوره حقوقی بگیرید. جزئیات شما به واحد جرایم کامانولث در لیگال اید نیوساوت ولز ارائه می شود.

دوستان و خانواده زندانیان می توانند از طریق شماره  
**(02) 9219 5076** با واحد جرایم کامانولث در لیگال اید نیوساوت ولز یا خدمات حقوقی زندانیان از طریق **(02) 9066 6046** تماس بگیرند.



## Simplified Chinese

**你是否因违反联邦或英联邦法律而获罪服刑？  
你是否收到关于假释的信？  
请立即获取法律建议。**

法律援助处 (Legal Aid) 可以帮助你写信给联邦假释办公室 (Commonwealth Parole Office)。即使你是自己写信，也可以从我们这里获得建议。

### 如何联系我们

囚犯可以免费拨打公用自动拨号列表 (CADL) 电话系统上的电话联系新南威尔士州法律援助处 (Legal Aid NSW)。请按**#2**，并说明你需要有关联邦假释的法律建议。你的详细信息会被转发给新南威尔士州法律援助处的联邦犯罪部门 (Commonwealth Crime Unit)。

囚犯的朋友和家人可以联系新南威尔士州法律援助处的联邦犯罪部门，电话：**(02) 9219 5076**，或是联系囚犯法律服务处 (Prisoners Legal Service)，电话：**(02) 9066 6046**。

## Traditional Chinese

**您是否因犯有聯邦或英聯邦罪行而服刑？  
您收到關於假釋的信件了嗎？  
立即獲得法律建議。**

法律援助可以幫助您寫信給聯邦假釋辦公室 (Commonwealth parole Office)。即便您自己寄信，您仍然可以從我們這裡獲得建議。

### 如何聯繫我們

服刑人員可以通過常用自動撥號列表 (CADL) 電話系統免費聯繫新南威爾士州法律援助中心 (Legal Aid NSW)。按 **#2** 並說您需要有關英聯邦假釋的法律建議。您的詳細信息將轉交給新南威爾士州法律援助中心的英聯邦犯罪部門。

服刑人員的朋友和家人可致電 **(02) 9219 5076** 聯繫新南威爾士州法律援助中心的英聯邦犯罪部門，或致電 **(02) 9066 6046** 聯繫服刑人員法律服務處。

## Vietnamese

**Quý vị có đang thụ án một tội danh Liên bang không?**

**Bạn có nhận được thư về việc tạm tha cho bạn không?**

**Hãy nhận tư vấn pháp lý ngay.**

Legal Aid có thể giúp quý vị viết thư cho Văn phòng Tạm tha của Liên bang (Commonwealth Parole Office). Ngay cả khi tự gửi thư, quý vị vẫn có thể được tư vấn từ chúng tôi.

### **Cách liên lạc với chúng tôi**

Tù nhân có thể liên lạc với Legal Aid NSW bằng cách gọi miễn phí đến hệ thống điện thoại Danh sách Quay số Tự động Chung (Common Auto Dial List, CADL).

Nhấn số **#2** và nói rằng quý vị muốn được tư vấn pháp lý về Tạm tha Liên bang (Commonwealth Parole). Thông tin chi tiết của quý vị sẽ được chuyển đến Đơn vị Tội phạm Liên bang (Commonwealth Crime Unit) tại Legal Aid NSW.

Bạn bè và gia đình của tù nhân có thể liên hệ với Đơn vị Tội phạm Liên bang (Commonwealth Crime Unit) tại Legal Aid NSW theo số **(02) 9219 5076** hoặc Dịch vụ Pháp lý cho Tù nhân (Prisoners Legal Service) theo số **(02) 9066 6046**.



This publication is a general guide to the law. You should not rely on it as legal advice, and we recommend that you talk to a lawyer about your situation.

The information is correct at the time of printing, however it may change. For more information contact LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.



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Order brochures online at:

[www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/ways-to-get-help/publications-and-resources)

For more information, visit:

[www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

### **Do you need help to contact us?**



If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** (9am–5pm) and ask for LawAccess NSW.

### **Do you find it hard to hear or speak?**



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS). Ask for LawAccess NSW on **1300 888 529**.