



## Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

### **Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021** **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

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Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson:

In relation to:

The Sentencing Administration Board (SAB) started in their submission to the Annual Report Hearings that there are 7 offenders that are at large in the community and have current warrants out for their arrest (I think most of these offenders were out on parole). The maximum period that one offender has been in the community is over 500 days, the minimum was 18 days. The SAB expressed serious concern about this, as many had reoffended. What is being done to ensure that these offenders are urgently found and detained?

Minister Gentleman: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

ACT Policing works closely with the Sentencing Administration Board to ensure a collaborative approach in law enforcement.

ACT Policing members are proactive in pursuing outstanding warrants as one of ACT Policing's key priorities is to maintain public safety.

ACT Policing acknowledges that the release of any person either on bail or parole is ultimately a decision for the Courts, however, ACT Policing continues to monitor and respond to any issues that arise from any breaches or non-compliance to conditions of release, through the flexible deployment of its capabilities.

In reference to the seven offenders currently in breach of their release conditions, ACT Policing notes these are low risk matters and are being pursued as operational priorities allow. ACT Policing is aware that low risk does not mean the person will not reoffend, and police continue to work hard covering all avenues of enquiry to locate and serve the outstanding warrants for these breaches.

Between 1 July 2020 and 1 March 2022, ACT Policing members have executed 124 Sentence Administration Board (SAB) warrants with an additional 10 warrants withdrawn by the SAB and returned to court.

ACT Policing will continue to elevate the priority of executing SAB warrants in line with other operational priorities.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:



Date: 16/3/2022

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Mick Gentleman