

Inquiry into Victoria's Criminal Justice System

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Influence of Bail Reform on Victoria's Remand and Prison Population

- The 2017/2018 bail reforms led to a significant increase in the remand population. According to Corrections Victoria, the number of unsentenced adult prisoners was:
 - *2017: 2,294 (33% of adult prison population)*
 - *2021: 3,019 (44% of adult prison population)*
- Reforms have not led to a reduction in the number of offences being committed on bail. According to the Crime Statistics Agency:
 - *indictable offences while on bail: 381 (2017) → 414 (2021)*
 - *contravening a conduct condition of bail: 7,267 (2017) → 7,617 (2021)*
- Pre-trial detention may be criminogenic

Strategies for reducing recidivism rates

- Redrafting current bail legislation
- The introduction of a presumption against the imposition of a short sentence (defined as under 12 months)
- Expanding community-based sanctions as an alternative to remand and imprisonment:
 - Community based treatment requirements
 - Expansion of unpaid employment conditions/vocational programs
 - Problem Solving Courts
 - Home Detention