



MATTHEW GUY MP

Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the Liberal Party

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Media Release

[John Pesutto](#)[Matthew Guy](#)

16

January
2018

Guy: Concurrent Sentences

Tuesday 16 January 2018

Concurrent Sentences

Background:

The Liberal Nationals propose an amendment to the Sentencing Act 1991 to ensure that offenders who commit violence crimes whilst on bail or parole do not avoid serving additional jail time for those offences by receiving a **concurrent** sentence.

This would apply to violent offences like the 11 crimes contained in the Liberal Nationals mandatory sentencing plan for violent re-offenders, including: murder, rape, aggravated car-jacking and aggravated burglary.

The 11 offences for mandatory minimum sentences are:

- Aggravated home invasion (s77B, CA)
- Aggravated car-jacking (s79A, CA)
- Armed robbery (s75A, CA)

- Rape (s38, CA)
- Aggravated burglary (s77, CA)
- Manslaughter by single punch or strike (s4A, CA)
- Causing serious injury intentionally in circumstances of gross violence (s15A, CA)
- Murder (s3, CA)
- Causing serious injury recklessly in circumstances of gross violence (s15B, CA)
- Causing serious injury intentionally (s16, CA)
- Causing serious injury recklessly (s17, CA)

Sentencing Advisory Council figures show that breaches of bail conditions and court orders now account for 10% of all offences sentenced in Victoria.

In 2015–16, the total number of bail-related secondary offences sentenced rose to 24,320 (a 25% increase since 2014-15).

Significantly, the offence of ‘Committing an indictable offence whilst on bail’ rose from 5,199 to 8,340 in 2015-16, representing a 60% increase in only 12 months.

As it currently stands, the Sentencing Act 1991 allows two or more terms of imprisonment to be served either **concurrently** (at the same time) or cumulatively (one after the other). There is a general presumption of **concurrency**, but a number of exceptions exist which create a presumption of accumulation in more serious classes of offending.

Comments attributed to Leader of the Opposition Matthew Guy:

“If you do the crime a Liberal Nationals Government will make you do the time and not a discounted sentence.

Victorians have had enough of violent criminals who re-offend while on bail or parole.

Bail and parole are a privilege and not a right. They give alleged offenders and offenders a chance to prove they deserve to live in the community.

But under a Guy Government if a violent offender takes that chance and squanders it by re-offending, they will not only lose that privilege but be expected to serve time for each offence.

That’s why the Liberal Nationals have announced changes which will abolish **concurrent** sentencing for those who offend while on bail or parole.

This sends a clear message: if you are a violent criminal that offends while on bail or parole, you will serve time for each individual offence, one after the other. That means longer time behind bars.

Under a Guy Liberal Nationals Government, those who offend while on bail or parole won't have the soft option of **concurrent** sentences.

This is the first in a series of reforms aimed at ending **concurrent** sentencing for Victoria's most dangerous and violent criminals.

The Liberal Nationals are also working on policy reforms for the practice of **concurrent** sentences for extremely violent crimes like murder, rape, and aggravated assault with further announcements will be made in due course."

Comments attributed to Shadow Attorney-General John Pesutto:

"This tougher sentencing policy is targeted at Victoria's most dangerous and violent criminals, the worst of the worst.

Our message to dangerous and violent alleged offenders and criminals is clear – if you receive bail or parole, the community expects you to take that opportunity to rehabilitate and not to take it as a green light to keep offending.

We need to have zero tolerance approach towards violent criminals who reoffend while on bail or parole."

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