

**Submission  
No 17**

**INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF  
CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

**Name:** Ms Christine Drayden-Thompson

**Date received:** 2/11/2012

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# Inquiry into the Closure or Downsizing of Corrective Services NSW Facilities Community Impact Survey



Name:

Christine Dravden-Thompson

Email:

Postcode:

Phone:

## What is your connection to the Grafton Gaol? (eg, employee, town resident)

I was an employee – and had worked at Grafton CC for over 21 years, prior to being made redundant. My parents live in Grafton, as do my in-laws; my grandparents were born here – Sir Earle Page was my grandfather's godfather. My son is doing Year 12, and my husband is in full time employment - thus I am unable to move. The closest gaol with the offer of a position in my field, is MNC CC which is 3 ½ hours drive –so impossible to commute.

Apart from the considerable worry for fellow staff who have had their lives turned upside down, I also have great concern for families of inmates, as some inmates have been moved to gaols as far south as Nowra (South Coast CC). This does not motivate inmates to address rehabilitation, especially Aboriginal inmates being moved away from Country.

## Why is Grafton Gaol important to the community of Grafton?

Like myself, a significant proportion of the town worked at the gaol, or were in some way connected to it – e.g. provided goods and/or services to the gaol or to staff or their families. My son is in Year 12 and like many other staff who have children at school –I have been told by his teachers (who were at the rallies) that this will affect the number of staff required at the schools. There has been a huge flow on effect, in all areas (Supermarkets, Car Sales plumbers etc) which we have seen already- even though it is only October.

Many goods and services have been affected which is greatly impacting on the town –and this is something that is being remarked upon by everyone.

**How will the closure or downsizing of Grafton Gaol affect employment opportunities in your community?**

There were already almost minimal employment opportunities. My son had been getting some part time work at Hungry Jacks and this appears to have melted away, and I am aware of many others (both young people and adults) who cannot find work and in fact just heard of an electrician who is putting people off, as he does not have enough work. I think it has already been extremely deleterious to employment.

As stated above when people leave, there are less people required in all service industries, which we have seen happening already – and exacerbated by the previous closure of the Abattoir and Telstra.

**How will the closure or downsizing of Grafton Gaol affect local business and the local economy of Grafton?**

See above

I am agreeable to answering any questions, in person, and to outlining my situation in more detail, should the enquiry request this.

Christine Drayden-Thompson

**Clarence Valley Community Unions Contact: Sharryn Usher 0417 497 701**

**or email to [clarencevalleycommunityu@gmail.com](mailto:clarencevalleycommunityu@gmail.com) subject line: submission**

**Please return your completed survey by:**

The Director

Select Committee on the Closure or Downsizing of Corrective Services NSW