

Submission
No 431

**INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND
PRISON-RELATED SERVICES**

Name: Mr Andrew Sim

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I have been a Prison Officer for eleven years. I joined the Service for job stability and a career. I was previously a Liberal Party voter and after joining the service became a staunch supporter of the Labor Party, both State and Federal. Now with the announcement of Privatisation, I, like all other staff employed by the Department of Corrective Services find myself in a time of uncertainty.

We, the staff, have been told that no-one will lose their jobs. Where then, may I ask, are they going to place hundreds of excess officers and support staff. Am I expected to relocate to another centre that may increase my travelling time by hours a day or am I expected to move my family to another location in a time where housing affordability is at an all time low.

Are the staff at Cessnock expected to relocate their families to another city or town, therefore destroying the lives they built for themselves in a place they have called home, in some cases for generations?

I say the Departmental heads need to think about the impact the Privatisation announcement is having on Staffs families, the stress and anxiety they have created and continue to escalate with ill thought circulars and memorandums.

My wife and kids don't want to uproot themselves and nor do I, we have built a home; we don't want to relocate to a house. We need our friends, not associates. Leave us the hell alone, if you want Privatisation then follow past examples and build jails especially for the purpose of Privatisation and when the Private contractors fail in their duties and the State is forced to regain control we will be glad to rectify your mistakes. The numerous cases of private jails and their failure rates have been visited extensively in past material so I won't go there, it would be an exhausting task.

We are not rorters, Management approve the overtime bill. How hypocritic can a person be? We are accused of being rorters by doing so much overtime. In protest we activate a ban on doing all overtime and acting to a higher rank position, the Departments response, they take us to the Industrial Relations Commission to force us to do overtime and to fill vacant executive positions, go figure.

A responsible decision would be to put someone in charge, from the public sector, of the Corrective Services portfolio who could manage the Department in a professional and efficient manner, therefore keeping us in the Public Sector. If current Management are unable to do this then find someone who can. Our jobs are not for sale, we, the workers, should not bear the brunt of senior managements inability to do their jobs efficiently.

Finally, I will say that I will be thinking long and hard about supporting the Labor Party in the future, a party who in the past has dismissed privatisation of any Public asset. To the politicians who are actively and publicly supporting our fight you have my heartfelt thanks and support, to those against us, shame, shame, shame!

To Ray Hadley,,,,,your an idiot.

Thanks to the POVB and PSA, we will fight to the end.