

Submission  
No 162

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

**Name:** Mrs Kelly Evans

**Date received:** 27/02/2009

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a Correctional Officer for 16 years and I feel it necessary to voice my concerns and opinions at this very critical time. In the past the "threat" of privatisation has continually been thrown at the staff in the gaols as a bullying tactic by the Department of Corrective Services in order for them to get their own way. I believe the Department feel that by privatising these gaols that they will save considerable amounts of money in the short term. But in doing so will have to do away with a lot of inmate programmes etc, this actually poses a huge problem and therefore heightened danger for the community at whole. The recidivism rate will jump as these inmates are discharged into the community without addressing their offending behaviour and in a lot of cases going home "better" criminals than when they entered the gaol system. This then just becomes a revolving door situation for these inmates and their current and future victims. They continue their life of crime and most times escalating the type of crime and violence. Personally I think if the general public was aware of the consequences of privatisation they would be horrified, this has the potential to affect every single one of us (every one of us living in NSW)

Currently the world economy is failing and we are already seeing massive job losses in Australia and I think that is ironic that the Federal Government is trying to save these jobs and our economy while this state government is considering joining in the slaughter of these jobs by doing it themselves. My youngest brother was made redundant only yesterday after working for his employer for 7 years, he was called in early that morning for a meeting and was told to finish up then and there- he was due for his long service in 1 week. I find this an absolute disgrace and it turns my stomach that a devoted employee can be treated in such a way.

It's a fact that incarcerating people is a costly exercise, given what is involved in the day to day issues that people face eg, hospitalisation, education, clothing, food, electricity, transport and the list goes on, a major expense within the Department of Corrective Services is overtime which has blown out over the years due to a recruitment freeze, every gaol was running with vacant positions that had to be filled- the Departments answer to this was that instead of recruiting staff to fill these positions in their words "Its cheaper to fill them on overtime" with an attitude like this how can any organisation run to a budget and attempt to save money, even when staff placed overtime bans on after being accused of rotting the overtime, the department took us to court to forced us to continue to do the overtime. I personally do not like to do overtime as my family life is valuable to me but on the occasion I have not had much of a choice as the gaol would not have had enough staff to function. I find it a personal insult that Mr.Woodham has in saying what he has, labelled me a corrupt rorter of overtime, as a loyal professional I am deeply offended by these off the cuff comments. Instead of accepting responsibility for the mismanagement of this department and attempting to rectify this situation in a civilised and professional manner he is slandering his staff and blaming us for the overtime blow out.

I hope for all our sake that the right decision is made in keeping our Correctional System Public.

Yours Sincerely  
Kelly Evans