

**Submission  
No 23**

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

**Name:** Ms Julie Smith

**Date received:** 6/11/2012

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



RECEIVED  
6 NOV 2012  
LEGISLATIVE  
COUNCIL

Name:

Email:

Postcode:

Phone:

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

Wife of ex-employee (Made redundant by gaol closure)  
Town resident for 50 years.

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

Firstly for the employment of some many of our locals, who earn their wages and spend them in town, thus keeping a wonderful town alive. The location of a gaol in this area of the North Coast is important as a huge number of inmates are from nearby towns and it helps the families to be able to visit them without the extra burden of high costs to travel long distances. (The families aren't the ones who broke the law. This town has be struggling with the closure of lot of large businesses over the past couple of years and every dollar it loses and goes to another region is making it impossible for every other business in town.

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

Some people have had to take their families and leave town, others like my husband and I, have lost our only income. So there will be less money spent in town and the flow on effect will be felt by the whole community. Every business has a budget to be met, less people and ones on a much reduced income equals - less money being spent, therefore business will struggle to meet their budgets and their businesses won't be viable, so they will need to cut costs. What choices will they have, either reduce staff or close up. Now there will be less jobs for everyone, which is ~~always~~ always a struggle in a Country Town.

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

Grafton has always been a Steady Town, which has always relied on The Grafton Gaol for jobs for Custodial Officers, Industry workers, mental health workers, nurses etc. Where will these people find work now? Where will the inmates and their families go now? The whole community will be suffering. We have no other big industries, universities or specialty health services. **SAVE OUR GAOL - SAVE OUR TOWN.** But the worst thing now is the Government said it had to happen because they had no money - now another kick in the guts - they suddenly have **MONEY** -

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