

Submission  
No 326

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

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Telephone:**

**Date received:** 19/02/2009

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*Partially Confidential*

I would like to express my concerns regarding the intended Privatisation of Parklea and Cessnock Correctional Centres and further more the possibility of the Courts and Court security escorts. I strongly feel that Gaols run by the Public sector are managed for the safety and security of staff, inmates, visitors and the general public. Private companies are run to make a profit therefore reducing staffing levels, staff to inmate ratios. Reducing programmes provided to inmates for example, education, welfare, drug and alcohol courses just to name a few. Why have other states gone down this same road only to return these correctional centres back to the public sector, because it has been proven even overseas that Gaols are run more effectively within the Public sector, providing safe and secure housing whilst providing valuable courses and training for inmates whilst in custody.

Privately run gaols have more incidents than a Public gaol for example staff assaults, inmate assaults, escapes more trafficking drugs, phones etc into these centres. For the safety of staff, inmates and the general public we need to keep these gaols in the public sector.

Whilst I have lived within the Parklea area for more than nine years and have spoken to the people within the community, they were all unaware of the size of Parklea Correctional Centre. This alone shocked the community, but on the otherhand they have not had any reason to be concerned as the gaol has been operated and managed in a professional manner therefore reducing any risk to the local community. Can the local community be guaranteed of there safety if Parklea was to be managed by a private company.

I feel the main reason for the intended privatisation is to save money, and trying to reduce the amount of overtime in some centres. Why is it that one centre has no overtime and another centre is required to fill some shifts that are vacant on overtime not just because of sick leave, facs leave or annual leave. I believe centres and court locations staffing levels are either understaffed or overstaffed. These locations that are understaffed should be filled by activating the transfer list to fill these vacancies, therefore reducing overtime.

The Government needs to take into consideration that this has failed overseas and within other States, so don't make the same mistake.

Keep these Gaols Public.