

Submission
No 281

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Arguments against prison privatisation

- The claims that private prisons provide lower costs are not entirely true – lower costs can occur in the building of prisons but not in the running of them.
- There is no real evidence that private prisons have better rehabilitation rates than government run prisons.
 - The state is the only institution that should be ethically and morally allowed to use force legitimately as it is the elected representatives acting on behalf of the people – it is unethical for private companies to take on this role.
 - Private prisons make use of essentially forced labour in income and profit generation.
 - Private prisons experience systematic failures that often arise from their nature as profit-making institutions.
- Contracts between private prison companies and government are confidential and there is no transparency, unlike in public prisons.
- Sometimes the privatisation of prisons is a strategy used to undermine trade unions. Some private prison contractors mainly employ non-unionised members, subjecting them to inferior working conditions.
- Higher rates of sexual and physical abuse of prisoners are found in private prisons, and, generally, there is a lower quality of life than what is found in public institutions.
- As with other types of concessions, conflicts of interest arise where government officials and government consultants monitoring and reporting on private prisons are shareholders or employees of those prisons.

I object to prisons being run for profit, to losing transparency and accountability, to job losses in the community and to putting staff and inmates in an even more dangerous situation.