Submission No 281

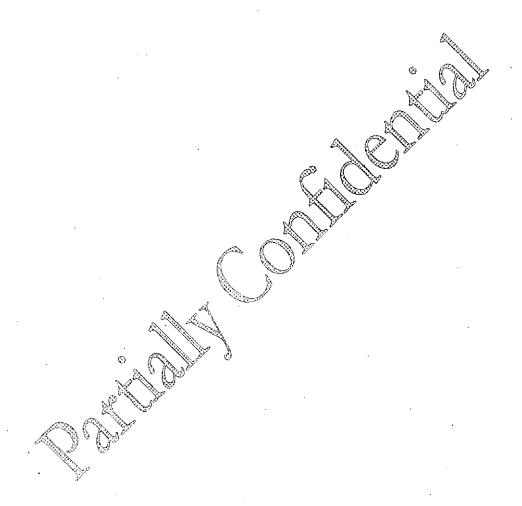
INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON-RELATED SERVICES

Name:

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24/02/2009



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.