

Submission
No 14

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 4/02/2009

Partially Confidential

Dear Committee Members,

I am a permanent administrative assistant at Parklea Correctional Centre and on a pay scale I would be one of the lowest with no hope of overtime etc., therefore no hope of running the cost of running this centre into the ground.

I have worked at Parklea for several years and as part of my duties I am in contact with the inmate relatives who visit and deposit money, who on hearing of the "Privatisation" have warned me of the influx of drugs etc that will be happening (as it occurs at Junee which shows in the stats) along with the inmates targeting the private staff who will be guarding them.

The Correctional Centre is surrounded by residential homes, who when told of the Privatisation have said they will fear for their safety.

My question would be if the issue of the cost of wages has blown the budget eg, overtime, I would put forward that overtime cannot be created it can only exist through lack of staffing, therefore the committee would need to look at the number of officers to the number of inmates (taking into account that the officer numbers have not increased from when the centre had 300 inmates to now when it has 850 inmates) I suggest that something is wrong. Parklea unlike other centres is a Remand Centre and we receive inmates constantly over a 24 hr period and in turn transport them to other centres until they are required for court etc. With the economic recession I am sure that the numbers will be on the increase.

The actual cost of keeping an inmate at Parklea is below what the Departments' own "formula" is. We have in admin cut the cost to the point for example we do not even have disposable cups it is BYO cup soon it will be BYO pen. And yet through all this the Offices and Staff have kept their "Duty of Care" to the inmates and family members. Can a private firm who pays their workers the minimum wage produce the quality and duty of care, as do correctional officers and administrative staff?

When will the state government stop selling off all our (NSW) assets? Ask yourself why are QLD and Vic returning the Private Correctional Centres back Public Correctional Centres, cannot we learn through the mistakes of other states in Australia and not replicate them time and time again in NSW?

Thank you for the chance to voice my opinion and objection to Privatisation