

Submission
No 329

INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON-RELATED SERVICES

Organisation:

Name: Name suppressed

Telephone:

Date received: 26/02/2009

Partially Confidential

The Director
GSPC 3
Parliament House
Sydney

Re: Inquiry into the privatisation of Prisons in NSW

I am a professional Correctional Officer and a proud employee at Parklea Correctional Centre. I hold grave concerns for the safety of Officers, auxiliary staff and prisoners should the privatisation of any prisons proceed.

During a staff training session during 2008 at Parklea CC we had a very informative seminar presented by the 2nd in charge of the NSW Police OMG (Outlaw Motorcycle Gang) Taskforce. One very important fact that was stated by the Officer was "our intelligence gathering has confirmed that the majority of all private security companies in NSW have been infiltrated by OMG members". Now while these security companies may or may not be associated with private contractors to the Prison industry it does raise serious questions as to what sort of background checks would be put in place on private employees (and monitored by the DCS) to ensure that there is no such infiltration in to privately run jails.

Correctional Officers employed by the Dept of Corrective Services are subject to extremely stringent security checks both in Australia and overseas as well as fingerprint checks and even RTA printouts of driving records.

I believe that along with the many other concerns that have been raised that this matter be of consideration during your inquiry.

Yours sincerely