

**Submission  
No 38**

**INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF  
CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

**Organisation:** Corrective Services Teachers Association

**Name:** Mr Stewart Burkitt

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**Submission to Select Committee on the Closure or  
Downsizing of Corrective Services NSW Facilities**

Submitted by: Corrective Services Teachers Association

Authorised by: Stewart Burkitt, Association President

Address: c/o New South Wales Teachers Federation,  
Mary Street, Surry Hills 2010.

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The Corrective Services Teacher Association is the industrial body covering education staff employed by Corrective Services NSW. We are concerned at the lack of communication prior to the restructure of Grafton Correctional Centre and the on-going effects of this restructure on staff and inmates, not only at Grafton but in all correctional centres across NSW.

The lack of consultation with staff about the restructure of Grafton Correctional Centre was a clear breach of our industrial award and the extremely short timeframe for the

changes to take effect were an unnecessary burden on the staff and inmates of the centre. The local economy is feeling the effects of the restructure and had no time to plan or prepare for these negative effects.

In the restructure of Grafton Correctional Centre, six education positions were lost. At a time when the importance of educating inmates has been highlighted, the loss of these positions is a heavy blow. Not only have these six staff and their families had to endure upheaval in their lives with job changes and relocations, a great deal of experience and knowledge goes with them.

For the inmates of Grafton Correctional Centre, this had been an added stressor when they are already in a very stressful situation. Many have been removed from their local area, making it difficult to maintain ties with family and friends. This is particularly concerning for indigenous inmates who have been removed from their country. In addition, many inmates will have been participating in

education and programs as part of their case plans and these, too, will have been disrupted.

For education staff in correctional centres across NSW, the abrupt restructure of Grafton Correctional Centre brought home the insecure nature of our jobs in the current political environment. Those of us in regional areas are also very conscious that similar closures or downsizing of our centres would have a severe impact, not only on us and our families, but also on our entire communities.

We urge the government to consider the negative consequences of the restructure of Grafton Correctional Centre when making future decisions. Full consultation with relevant staff should take place as well as research into minimising the impact upon local communities before any further such actions are taken.