

Supplementary
Submission
No 132

INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON-RELATED SERVICES

Organisation:

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Partially Confidential

To whom it may concern ,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and also as a concerned Prison Officer regarding the privatization of Parklea and Cessnock Correctional Centres .
To perform the duty of housing public citizens and controlling their personal rights and freedoms as a result of an unlawful act found by a court of law is a monumental event that touches everyone
from the person him/herself ,the families , the victims , the general public ,Those who enforce the law
and those who guide and care for those who are incarcerated .

This is a public service , As is any lawful service , A service that is performed by the state on behalf
of the community. As in any public service costs have to be controlled so that the general public are not
burdened with increasing costs and poor management . To have the very management that controls our service ,Who has guided our service , And has administered our service now tell the public that we Officers at the coal face ,The cell door doing the dirty work , Opening ourselves to abuse and threats and the horrors of incarceration , That we Officers are roting the public is reprehensible ,As in any Service there may be some who rort the service , But for the most part the Officer at the coal face , The cell door ,Is doing a job most people choose not to do , It takes a dedicated special type of person to front up to this every day , and then to see his very own managment belittle him is damaging to his very core .

As in any Service cost is the most overriding factor and management plays a most crucial part of this .But as a service provided by the public certain expectations are held by the community . Most of the community only see the inside of a prison through the media ,Which of course the media most of the time only show the very negative side of the prison system , escapes , assaults , Deaths, Drugs, the manipulation of staff by inmates , and of course any cost blow outs .
To allow a private company to perform this duty ,Where the company would expect a return for their investment is fundamentally wrong ,The custodial service is a public service , akin to the Police service and the Judicial system which is a public service performed for the public , respected by the public and supported by the public .
To profit from holding a person as a result of a law set by the community is so fundamentally wrong and against the basic principles of any community that you would have to question the ethics of any office who would be considering this.

To place this service into the hands of a private company , where the dollar rules every action , would change the accountability and the transparency of the custodial service , Where a company would justify its actions due to a set cost , where the entity may limit the contact of family , any outside support and any services due to costs is taking away the rights of inmates . This would then create an artificial control on the transparency of the service , Somewhat like the practice of the Junee Correctional Centre at this moment in time , Currently as i am aware , The N.S.W dept of Corrective Services pay all transport costs to convey and return inmates to Junee ,some nine hours from Sydney Metro area ,Also Junee CC management have a choice of the inmate they receive , Any inmate that has become hard to manage due to a violent or high risk behaviour is sent to a public Correctional Centre .

So if Parklea and Cessnock C.c's are privatised would they work on the same principle , leaving the most difficult and dangerous inmates to be managed by the public service while the private company makes money while the costs of the public service would rise due to extra management and security required for a service that the private entity is reluctant to provide , Easy money for profit while the community still pays .

Most communities are reluctant to have a Correctional Centre in their area at the Beginning but after a settling in period The C.C becomes part of the community ,providing employment ,

business opportunities , a stepping stone for ethnicities into the public service providing a cultural mix enriching our public service ,Which would be lost if the Centre's and the service are privatised . Sometimes the C.C is a focal point for the area and provides support on community days , Even a feeling of security and safety in some areas .Businesses big and small benefit from a C.C ,From the biggest service provider to the taxi driver ,Who all rely and provide a service to the community

Private contractors running a Correctional centre would seek to run the Centre at the lowest cost by cutting services to inmates and staff . not only medical ,ethical ,Educational and spiritual services ,but also security services would be behold to the dollar as an escape from public centres have found , namely the escape from long bay hospital CC where the inmate passed by an unmanned Guard tower (cameras in place) .Camera's replaced Guards to save money . The custodial service is a service providing security to the community keeping the misguided and sometimes most heinous people in custody ,safe and free from harm , psychically , emotionally , mentally and spiritually ,This cannot be done at a profit or for a profit .

I am against the selloff of a public Service for private profit .

yours sincerley

clipped on is an artwork from inmates