

Submission  
No 242

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

**Name:** Mr Andrew Sefton

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I object to the privatisation of prisons on several grounds.

Firstly. Although our prisons have tended to focus on the punitive function they perform they also perform a very important roll in rehabilitation and reform.

This creates a huge conflict of interest for a private organisation, answerable only to its shareholders and completely reliant on having high occupancy rates to make a profit. Why would a company place any value on reform and reduction of recidivism rates where that will reduce their profits by reducing the number of prisoners they house?

Secondly. The disastrous history of Public/Private partnerships over the last few years must be cause for very serious doubts about the efficacy of privatising prisons.

Lastly. The State has a moral obligation to see the justice process through. The State sets the laws, enables the Police to catch criminals and supports the prosecutorial and justice systems.

Why then, should the State simply dump it's responsibility to all these functions and to the people by washing it's hands of the final responsibility in this chain i.e. the punishment and reform of those imprisoned in their name.

If the Government wants to save money on the prison system it should be putting more money into post prison support for ex prisoners to prevent reoffending and break the cycle. There are many examples of intervention programs which successfully help ex prisoners to genuinely reform and stay out of prison.