

Submission
No 115

INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON-RELATED SERVICES

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The privatisation of prisons and prison-related services (inquiry)

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The Director
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I make this submission to your inquiry into the proposed privatisation of Cessnock and Parklea Prisons on three grounds: Firstly, as a long time member of the Australian Labor Party I passionately believe that all members of our party, and that includes politicians, Administrators and Rank & File members should, without exception and at all times, strictly adhere to our party's rules and policies. In our party's most recent publication covering Party Policy it clearly states on page 87 under Corrective Services that "Labor opposes the private contract management of prisons" Just what part of that statement could be interpreted as incomprehensible.

My second objection to the sell-off is based on moral grounds. For a government to relinquish its duty of care, training and rehabilitation of the states inmates, mostly Australians, to a foreign multi-national conglomerate, is gut-wrenchingly obscene. That any company, large or small, should benefit financially from incarcerating people should be abhorrent to us all.

My third objection relates somewhat to the first. While I would not go as far as those who are suggesting that, logically, the next progressive step following the privatisation of prisons is the privatisation of the police force, but who's to know? Who can say what politicians will do once they get the scent of easy revenue with the accompanying benefits that come from shedding the costs and responsibility of administration?

Dubbo 25th February 2009

