

Submission  
No 165

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date received:** 27/02/2009

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# **SUBMISSION**

**TO: NSW Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing  
Committee NO. 3  
NSW Parliament**

**From:**

**RE: Inquiry into the privatisation of prisons and prison-related  
services**

**DATE: 27/02/2009**

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I am very concerned that the Government of New South Wales is intending to privatise the management of some prisons in this State. It is believed that this will save money and improve efficiency. But what is the cost (financially and morally and nationally) of these supposed savings?

- The cost saving comes from reduced staffing and lower wages. Clearly this is nothing more than an assault on the current working conditions of employees of Corrective Services, and as such is akin to the work practices legislated by the former Howard Federal Government and consequently rejected by the Australian people at the subsequent Federal election.
- There seems to have been a number of issues raised relating to roting of overtime in the service but nothing has been raised, as far as I am aware, regarding the fact that overtime costs were largely due to vacancies and unfunded positions which by their very nature are filled through overtime. (This being a necessity due to the ever growing inmate population and squeezing of the existing staffing levels.) This does not constitute roting of the system but is actually an abuse, if anything, of staff and can lead to increased sick leave and reduced morale and productivity, as staff attempt to cope with high work demands.
- You will no doubt have been informed that managing Juneee Correctional Centre is cheaper than that of other Gaols in the State, however please also consider that inmates in that centre are carefully chosen and for most of its existence have been protection inmates. Such inmates are loath to cause trouble for fear of being returned to

the main population and being exposed to the dangers that they face in that circumstance. Prior to handing over any other prisons to private management maybe Junee should start taking any run of the mill inmate and see how long they cope with fewer staff. Junee is not just another gaol and cannot be compared on level pegging with the rest of the State.

- The Government has run many election campaigns on a heavy law and order policy and must wear the consequences of such programs.
- Imprisoning people and legislating to increase sentence lengths for the purpose of re-election and/or to appease a hostile media with its own anti-governmental (any form of government, not just the presently in power) agendas, is ridiculous and callous, one could say should be illegal. But then to pass over management of the inmates so imprisoned, to those anti-governmental forces shows greater concern by the government for those forces than for the interests of the people whom it has been elected to govern and protect.
- I point out recent newspaper articles which reported issues in the United States with privately run prison management bribing Judges to impose lengthier sentences on juveniles to provide more income for the prisons and also report indicating that privately run prisons in that country have a 69% greater rate of assault of inmates by other inmates.
- Management of prisons by a private consortium will inevitably lead to financial loss to Australia as foreign consortiums and or subsidiaries of them, such as that which run Junee C.C. will always take out of the country more money than they will invest. They wouldn't be here if they weren't making a profit. In the case of prison management there is very little investment on their part in the first place, so they just get to take the money and run, so to speak.
- It seems quite clear that the sell off of other Government run businesses only contributes to long term loss to the country as profits which once continuously fed back into government budgeting now only feed corporate greed and usually go overseas rather than back into the local economy. I personally do not want my tax dollars supporting overseas interests. I want them supporting mine and that of my fellow citizens and remaining in my country. Too much of our economic activity is currently benefiting the interests of people who have no long term concern for Australia and even less for NSW.
- As a citizen of a democratic and supposedly forward thinking Nation I find the concept of managing imprisonment for the purpose of profit completely abhorrent. This is a highly immoral concept.
- Private industry believes it has no responsibility to the people of a country. This has been stated by management of banking corporations

and others who say their only duty is to their stockholders. (Not even their own staff seem to get a look in here.) This issue is of primary concern relating to the imprisonment of people as this should only be about the management of severe risk to the population and never be about profits or stockholders.

- The larger picture here is one of sovereignty and relates to privatisation as a general principle. If a country ceases to own and operate its own infrastructure it ceases to own and operate its own government and in many functional senses ceases to be in control of its own destiny. Current anti-governmental forces of multi national companies want this to be the case so that they can do whatever they want wherever they want. The current economic philosophies of privatisation are nothing but a smoke screen for the agenda of industrial imperialism and this should not have been allowed to overtake our infrastructure as much as it has already, nor should this be allowed to continue.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Please note that the opinions expressed herein are the personal opinions of the writer and not representative of the Department of Corrective Services. However for you information I have been employed in this Department for almost eighteen years and have worked in programs and services as well as management within Correctional Centres for all of this time.