

Submission
No 266

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

Name: Mr Gregory Sullivan
Date received: 27/02/2009

I write to the committee regarding the privatisation of a public entity being Cessnock Correctional Centre.

Being now an employee of the dept, for the last two and a half years, at Cessnock, I have in the past have been involved as an electrical contractor for the past 27 years servicing the institution as mentioned and have been heavily involved with gaol system contracting throughout other institutions.

My past in contracting has been involved in total rewiring ST, HELIERS at Muswelbrook and repair and installation of projects at Cessnock.

Mr Ken Middlebrook expressed at the time of regional commander of the northern district welcomed me by joining the dept, as an important asset to the corrective services as my knowledge of security and work ethics were of high standard.

A POSITION BECAME AVAILABLE at Cessnock in 2006 and after 27rs of self employment as an electrical contractor, and employing some 20 odd staff and 18 apprentices of which 3 locally now employ some 50 odd staff within the Newcastle Area, I feel proud in my achievements to be able to say well done.

Now i have joined the dept, of correctional services to hopefully make a difference as i joined thinking my end of career would be my final input to the well being of persons wanting to succeed in life as a person of well being, and not a person of disbelief.

During my personal business ethics and thirst for excellence i was rewarded by the NSW GOVERNMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN SMALL BUSINESS by the premier of NSW Nick Griener in the 80,s, and invited to Parliament house for a informal meeting.

Now i have be come a part of an institution at Cessnock Correctional Centre and carried my work ethics on to hopefully achieve the same results, but now i face a choice of loosing everything i have worked for, as i have been on both sides of the fence.

I do Believe that the current command is out of touch with the thinking of actually solving the problem within the corrective services, as i have now seen the humility put to my workmates which is totally unjustified.

I drove to work the morning of 24th Feb 2009 and heard on the radio that Mr Ron Woodham had said that Cessnock employees had threatened to Knee Cap personnel and I thought it had happened recently. It was not until i arrived at work and found out later it was some 16yrs ago. Since then my friends around me socially are now calling me a bully as they believe this has happened recently, as per the press.

I feel saddened that my total career as a person of good nature has now been compromised, and during the time I have given to the dept, has been of good faith and work ethics, where do I go now.

My personnel circumstances has now put me financially at a low point, because i gave up a \$60,000 tax benefit to join this dept, and now being a wage earner i could not carry that debt, forward,

for any future claims of tax relief.

Since I have been at Cessnock i have helped reduce the Green House Effects by reducing power consumption by some \$7,900 by introducing new technology within the centre, and that is just the start.

other persons within the maintenance section have also helped to reduce costs as myself and others from background servicing as contractors have now reduced overheads by way knowledge of Cessnock and to say that privatisation of Cessnock would reduce the running costs, would be the something of a dream.

Overtime seems to be the point of this Government and other Raunts but let me say as a person from running a successful company and i can give you any info you like , any problem within any institution that runs at a loss starts from the top not the soldiers.

thanking you for the opportunity for expressing my short thoughts

Greg Sullivan (overseer).