

Submission
No 422

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

Name: Ms Jo Durand

Date received: 27/02/2009

I am opposed to the privatisation of any NSW Prisons, including the Cessnock and Parklea prisons and other prison functions.

Governments make laws, and are responsible for upholding those laws. It follows that governments should be responsible for the incarceration of those who break laws and the associated programs that assist prisoners in being rehabilitated back into the community.

A prison is an essential service to the community and should be owned and maintained by the government. Further, a justice system should be working towards the reduction of numbers of prisoners through other government programs within and without the prison system. There is no justification for enabling private profit-making companies to make money from incarcerating law-breakers.

There is no justification for a government to sell off its responsibility to own and manage prisons and their associated functions. There is a substantial body of evidence that shows that private prisons are understaffed, under funded and cut corners to increase profits. Further, there are more assaults on staff and inmates than in public prisons.

There should be no profits made through the misery of people – there is no justification to selling of public prisons.