

Submission
No 371

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24/02/2009

Partially Confidential

Subject: Submission into privatisation of NSW correctional centres

The privatisation of prisons and prison-related services (Inquiry)
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

This submission is made on my behalf in regards to the privatisation of Cessnock and Parklea Correctional Centres. Most of the details in this submission have been forwarded to Mr. Terenzini MP for Maitland on the 15th December 2008.

I do not believe that privatisation acts in the best interest of our communities and the reasons for such are as follows in this document.

Research to date has revealed that the question of privatisation is inconclusive and, at worst, there is no difference in cost-effectiveness.

On the 17th November 2008 Mr Kerry Hickey addressed the parliament and was quoted as saying

"I draw to the attention of the House the proposal that has been put forward by the Minister for Justice about the market testing of the Cessnock Correctional Centre. The issue first raised its head in the Public Accounts Committee, which published a report entitled "Value for Money from NSW Correctional Centres" in September 2005. The report looked at the feasibility of privatising some centres, among other recommendations. But there was no representation from a major stakeholder in the process, the Prison Officers Association. The report contains some misleading and inaccurate statements that were untested by representatives of those who work in the New South Wales prison system. Therefore, I am not surprised by some of the outcomes."

The Honourable Minister Mr. Kerry Hickey opposes any privatisation of Cessnock Correctional Centre and supports staff at the centre.

As an ALP voter I am amazed that any NSW correctional centre is under threat.

Privatising gaols is against long standing ALP policy, ie Under section 11.2 of the NSW ALP policy 2006-2008 book. In short it reads

"LABOUR OPPOSES THE PRIVATE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT OF PRISONS"

My life in the Hunter area.

My background in this community is one of honour and distinction. I moved to the Hunter region from Sydney in 2001, and by the end of 2002 had ebbed my way into a respectable position of this community. This was achieved through my involvement as a Martial Arts instructor working voluntarily within the organisation of Body & Soul Healthworks at Maitland.

I have achieved much through out these years and proud of my respected position. I currently instruct in excess of 100 students of various ages from 4 yrs to 65 years of age. All of whom have expressed concern and disgust about the suggestion of Privatisation of Cessnock Correctional Centre and losing their instructor.

I have also furthered my standing within the community by opening another discipline of Martial arts (Kombatan Arnis) with a further 12 to 14 students and growing.

What does this have to do with privatising Cessnock Correctional Centre?

I do not want to leave the Hunter area nor do I want to leave the Department Of Corrective Services.

I am proud of my position of Senior Correctional Officer at Cessnock Correctional Centre and I have made several contributions to this community and the Department.

My wife is also employed at Cessnock Correctional Centre and holds the rank of Assistant Superintendent. has been employed with the Department since May 1988 and lived in this region since September 1988.

We have 8 children between us and have 4 living at Home. Without going into too much detail all are held in high regard within the community and do not want to move away from the Maitland area. All 4 children living at home are students of the Martial Arts at Body & Soul Maitland and have a good support base.

- Samantha was recently appointed to Apprentice Chef at the Bradford Hotel at Rutherford and is involved in teaching Martial Arts to younger students as stated in the Lower Hunter Star on Thursday 10 July 2008. Annexure A
- Colby has received praise from the Maitland Mercury on Wednesday 2 July 2008 for raising the alarm to a fire hazard in the area. Annexure B
- Blade is the 2008 School Captain at Gillieston Heights PS. Annexure C
- Jett has just started Primary school at Gillieston Heights Public School.

For these reasons and many more I and my family do not want to leave the area. No words can justify the impact of privatisation of Cessnock Correctional Centre means to my family and friends.

My In-Laws live at Metford NSW and have five members of the family working within the Department of Corrective Services.

Three of whom are working at Cessnock Correctional Centre and One working at Newcastle Court cells. My father in Law retired from full time employment with the Department several years ago and is currently employed on a casual basis within the Department. Our family base will be destroyed by these changes in that we will be forced to move around NSW. Our family have a long history working within the Department.

I have been employed by this Department since June 2000 and since joining, gained promotion twice to Senior Correctional Officer at St Heliers and Cessnock Correctional Centres through a competitive merit based promotional process.

In 2007 I applied for and won through a competitive merit based process a position in the Departments Career Development Program. I have achieved much during this program and I am proud of the fact that I am the first participant to have passed the full requirements for Certificate IV in Training & Assessment TAA40104 on the 25th November 2008.

Our Commissioner Ron Woodham is quoted as stating that
"NSW correctional officers are highly-trained motivated and vigilant"
I and others like me are all this and more. I know of numerous other officers whom are dedicated voluntary Fire fighters, SES workers, Teachers etc working at Cessnock CC.

Please help to save our positions at Cessnock Correctional Centre.

For the record I understand the bad press in regards to officers rotting the overtime. I find this disgusting and ask if this was true Why is there not an ICAC inquiry about it?

And why were Officers Ordered back to work after imposing an Overtime Band in recent months?

I have attached a record of my overtime record from the 1st January 2008 til the 14th December 2008. It shows I worked a total of 7 overtime shifts during that time. How is that rotting?? Annexure D

After researching the reading the Departments annual reports from 2002 to 2007 the Department has continual improved productivity savings by considerable amounts.
Source: http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/Information/Annual_Reports/index.asp

I have read these annual report and ask Why, Does the Department need to privatise Correctional centres when it is continual being praised for productivity savings.

Why are staff at Cessnock Correctional Centre told that changes to their work practices and conditions are brought about by the departments "The Way forward" restructure to improve efficiency when it was reported in the Department of Corrective Services annual report for 2006/2007 to Parliament that :

- "The Department continued to implement Efficiency Improvement Plan which achieved savings, including increases in productivity, totalling \$48 million"?
- Commissioner Woodham received remuneration of \$348,600 per annum.
- Deputy Commissioner Offender Management & Operations Ian McLean received remuneration of \$ 278,000 per annum.
- Deputy Commissioner Corporate Services Gerry Shipp received remuneration of \$ 247,300 per annum.

Source:

http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/information/annual_reports/Annual_Report_2006-2007/annrep07web.pdf

Why are staff at Cessnock Correctional Centre told that changes to their work practices and conditions are brought about by the departments "The Way forward" restructure to improve efficiency when it was reported in the Department of Corrective Services annual report for 2005/2006 to Parliament that :

- The Department achieved a productivity savings target of \$27.6 million.
- Commissioner Woodham received remuneration of \$335,200 per annum.
- Deputy Commissioner Offender Management & Operations Ian McLean received remuneration of \$ 252,801 per annum.
- Deputy Commissioner Corporate Services Gerry Shipp received remuneration of \$ 221,101 per annum.

Source: http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/information/annual_reports/Annual_Report_2005-2006/AnnualReport2006.pdf

Why are staff at Cessnock Correctional Centre told that changes to their work practices and conditions are brought about by the departments "The Way forward" restructure to improve efficiency when it was reported in the Department of Corrective Services annual report for 2004/2005 to Parliament that :

- The Department achieved the productivity saving target of \$27.45m for 2004/2005 financial year. Following additional funding for the increased inmate population the Department achieved a balanced budget.
- The commissioner continues to support staff training initiatives with an emphasis on career development programs for all staff.
- Commissioner Woodham received remuneration of \$322,300 per annum. (Since 1 October 2004)
- Deputy Commissioner Offender Management & Operations Ian McLean received remuneration of \$ 228,650 per annum.

Source: http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/information/annual_reports/Annual_Report_2004-2005/a00_complete_report.pdf

Why are staff at Cessnock Correctional Centre told that changes to their work practices and conditions are brought about by the departments "The Way forward" restructure to improve efficiency when it was reported in the Department of Corrective Services annual report for 2003/2004 to Parliament that :

- In 2003/04, The Department exceeded its productivity saving target of \$10.6 million, delivering savings of \$11.62 million within the Departments balanced budget.
- Commissioner Woodham received remuneration of \$309,900 per annum. (Since 1 October 2003)
- Deputy Commissioner Offender Management & Operations Ian McLean received remuneration of \$ 219,850 per annum.

Source: http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/information/annual_reports/Annual_Report_2004-2005/a00_complete_report.pdf

If changes to work practices and conditions are brought about by the departments "The Way forward" restructure to improve efficiency are there 15 Members sitting on the board of Management in 2008 as opposed to 3 members in previous years?

Source: http://www.dcs.nsw.gov.au/about_us/Board_of_Management.asp

What is their total remuneration package costing the Department of Corrective Services and the people of NSW?

And how does it promote efficiency and effectiveness in the workplace? i.e Are these costs factored into the daily cost per inmate?

Has the NSW Government considered the financial impact on the local economy if Cessnock Correctional Centre was privatised and, if so, what are the impacts?

For all the above reasons I ask for your support against privatising any NSW Correctional Centre.

Yours Sincerely

PS.

Recently I have relocated with my family and wife (who also works at Cessnock correctional centre) to Kempsey to take up a position at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre at our substantive rank.

While we both agreed on this move we both felt threatened and concerned about the changes to our employment with the Department of Corrective Services. While the Department wasted no time in relocating us to Kempsey from Cessnock, Our major concern was for our children. Our son started High school this year and we felt it in his best interest to relocate early in the year as opposed to later. This was to give him the best chance to adjust to high school in another area.



STEALTH: Stacey Mutron, Samantha McMurrugh and Blade Gay are ready to pounce at the martial arts workshops next week.

000730K51

Learn discipline and teamwork through martial arts

Ninja style

By Katie Smith

What better way for kids to learn discipline, teamwork and focus than at the martial arts workshops being held these school holidays at Body and Soul Health Works in High Street, Maitland.

The workshops will be run over the week of July 14 to 18 from 10am to 12pm and are aimed at children aged from 8 to 17 years old.

Body and Soul Health Works owner and workshop convener, Bill Johnson, said the workshops are run every year and are popular with both kids and parents.

"It's a great way for parents to get their kids involved in martial arts," he said.

"We try to do something different every day so one day we will do kickboxing, then the next day boxing skills and drills."

"We will have two gymnastics instructors from the PCYC come in one day as guest instructors."

Johnson said the most popular day by far in the workshop was on the Friday which was weapons day.

"The kids are shown weapons such as a sword and a staff," he said.

"They love it."

Johnson said children of any level of skill and development were encouraged to join the workshop.

"It doesn't take long to get every-

“ We try to do something different every day so one day we will do kickboxing, then the next day boxing skills and drills.

BILL JOHNSON
Workshop convener

one up to the same speed."

Johnson said the children were set a goal at the start of the workshop to complete 1000 push ups and 1000 sit ups by the end of the week.

"They start at 200 per day and work their way up to it," he said.

"The kids get to keep fit as well as have fun."

Children who complete the whole workshop receive a certificate and t-shirt.

Johnson is a 5th dan black belt who has been internationally trained and qualified.

Several black belt instructors will be on hand during the workshop to supervise and ensure activities are carried out safely.

To find out more or to make a booking phone 4936 6766.

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Teen helps to fight fire

EMILY RUNDLE

Gillieston Heights youth Colby McMurrugh, 13, performed a kind act for her neighbours when she raised the alarm about a fire a nearby reserve.

"I was going for a walk and saw the fire and all the smoke.

"I tried to put it out with my shoe but then it got bigger so I ran to all the houses nearby, knocking on doors, yelling 'fire!'.

"I told everyone to call the fire brigade and then get out of their houses because it was dangerous," Miss McMurrugh said.

Neighbours in houses that back on to the reserve used hoses and bucketed water until the fire brigades arrived.

"It was pretty nerve-racking at first because I didn't know what to do," Miss McMurrugh said.

Fire brigades from East Maitland, Louth Park and



Maitland extinguished the fire at 9.45pm. It took crews about 10 minutes.

East Maitland Fire Station Officer Jim Crookston said a treated pine fence at the back of the properties was damaged from the blaze.

He said the strong wind helped to spread the blaze.

"Fires such as this are a good reminder to people whose properties back on to bush or dry grass (to) keep it maintained," Mr Crookston said.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE!
 Firefighters at the scene where a fire threatened properties at Gillieston Heights.

Strong winds batter Hunter.

It was a good day for flying a kite as strong winds hit Maitland yesterday.

Strong north-west and north winds swept the Hunter yesterday afternoon and through the night but they are expected to ease today.

The wind did affect parts of the Hunter.

The Bureau of Meteorology said wind speeds were between 30 and 50kph and at times reached 70kph.

The State Emergency Service took a steady stream of call-outs.

Jobs included roof repairs, felled trees and a backyard shed that had blown away.

Newcastle Ports Corporation said the wind did not affect shipping.

Power was cut to 20,000 homes in Sydney for several hours when building debris blown on to a high-voltage cable triggered an automatic shutdown.

The 'shutdown' of the cable supply to a substation at Pennant Hills blacked out homes about midday in parts of Pennant Hills, Thornleigh, Beecroft and nearby suburbs, a spokeswoman for Energy Australia said.

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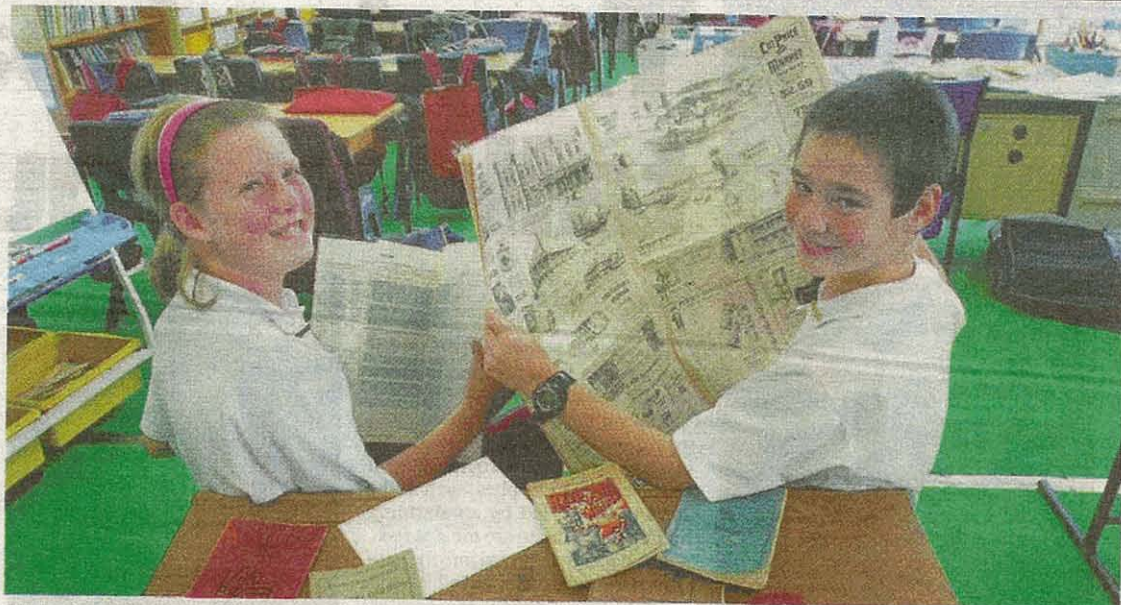
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MEMORABILIA: Gillieston Public School vice-captain Sky Fitzsimmons and captain Blade Gay with some of the memorabilia collected for the school's 150th anniversary celebrations.

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Old-fashioned fete to celebrate 150 years

The sesquicentennial celebrations of Gillieston Public School will continue at the weekend with an old-fashioned country fete.

Principal Louise Blakemore said the school would return to tradition for the special event, even inviting back former Maitland MP Milton Morris to perform the official opening ceremony.

The school had replaced the fete with a garage sale and market day since 2000, but Ms Blakemore said it was more appropriate to revert to the terminology popular in the 1960s and 1970s to mark the school's 150th year.

A jumping castle, children's activities, a car display, barbecue and a cake

stall would be among the attractions at the fete.

There would also be a display of memorabilia and artefacts documenting the school during its one-and-a-half centuries of operation, including a series of drawings by a descendant of the school's first pupils detailing what the schoolhouse looked like when it opened in 1858.

The fete will run from 8am until noon, with the official opening at 10am.

"During his time as the minister for transport, Mr Morris regularly opened our fetes," Ms Blakemore said.

"Maitland Mayor Peter Blackmore will also be here.

"It will be a special day because we're hoping the school's oldest living pupil and the wife of the school's longest serving principal will also be able to come."

The school's 96 students have been involved in an array of events to celebrate its 150 years, including a musical and a specially-organised Colonial Day last term.

They also opened a time capsule that was buried in 1978.

And there are more planned, including a visit from ex-pupils during Education Week. The students will also bury their own time capsule at the end of the year.

Annexure D

Search For Employee Daily Schedule

EmployeeSchedule Edit View Tools Help

Search Criteria Filters

Work Group:

Activity

Work Location and/or Shift Class

Shift Class:

Work Location:

Employee Id:

Employee Name:

Search

New Search

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Program Name msg99h.exe

Program Description Employee/Activity Daily Schedule

Version ABE

Revision 3 \$ Date: Friday, 15 April 2005

Module 389A

Product Version 5.2.3.2

File Version 5.2327.0.3

Location C:\Program Files\Mincom\MIMS Open Enterprise\5.2.3.2\bin\

Compiled Date 18 April 2005 13:38

Form Name frmMsg99h01SearchView