

Submission
No 238

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

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I do not believe corporations should be trusted with such a fundamental part of the justice system. Frequent escapes are commonplace.

In the case of the Victorian Metropolitan Woman's Correctional Centre, the Government was forced to take control of the prison after repeated escapes, severe contract breaches including inadequate staffing, a lack of proper security services, rampant illicit drugs and excessive lockdowns.

Assaults increase.

A 2001 US Department of Justice study showed that in comparable prisons, private facilities had a 49 per cent higher assault rate on staff and a 65 per cent higher assault rate on other prisoners. Higher likelihood of prisoner recidivism.

Recent research demonstrates that private prison inmates have a significantly greater risk of committing more crimes after release than those in public prisons.

More complaints.

Junee Prison in NSW, which is run by GEO Group, has consistently been the subject of significantly more complaints to the Ombudsman than any other correctional facility in the state.

Private prisons perform poorly.

A leaked report from the UK Prisons Service in 2008, ranking performance of all prisons in six categories, showed that 10 out of 11 privately run prisons in England and Wales were in the bottom quarter of all prisons.