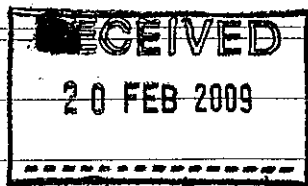


Submission
No 28

INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON-RELATED SERVICES

Organisation: Cessnock Correctional Centre
Name: Ms Susan Macleod
Position: Official Visitor
Date received: 20/02/2009



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Inquiry to Prison Privatisation

18/2/09.

As Official Visitor at Cessnock Correctional Centre from 6/8/03 till the present I have been most impressed by management; correctional officers; staff & centre routine.

I have noted excellent management under Norm Provost (^{COO}GM) and now Lorraine Bridge (GM) and been most impressed with staff interrelationships and throughcare system efficiency.

If the aim of incarceration is public protection and inmate rehabilitation for further public protection then the Cessnock Centre certainly meets objectives.

I would consider the officers well trained and professional and performing their incarceration/rehabilitation roles most astutely; knowing the inmates at a level of personal help where needed and providing effective authority as required.

This balance has most certainly ensured minimal disruption to centre routine and kept inmate distress/aggression down.

I wonder then why a system that works would be supplanted by the unknown?

If society is the major consideration then a first-offenders prison not privatisation should be the focus.

As it stands I must make a submission to the inquiry from my personal observations over five years as to a well-run centre with personnel who link and communicate for correctional efficacy; a focus no degree of money, casual correctional officers or truck-in-personel could emulate.

Susan Macleod JP
BSS, MSSC