

Submission
No 307

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 27/02/2009

Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam

I commenced working at Cessnock Correctional Centre as AOD worker in August 2008 after working for Corrective Services as a Probation and Parole Officer since 2002. When I won the position as AOD worker I requested a secondment /leave without pay from Probation and Parole to take up my current position as a career development opportunity. I was refused that opportunity which meant I lost my substantive position as a COS officer. I was not advised by the Department at the time of application or interview that privatisation could be an issue. This does concern me as I relocated 18 months previously from Dubbo NSW and I have very recently purchase a house.

I have been a dedicated worker whilst a employee of this Service and while I am employed as a Drug and Alcohol Worker I additionally work through other criminogenic factors with offenders to assist in the reduction of recidivism. In today's society it noted the rising statistics with domestic violence, I have concerns that through privatisation, reduction in programs and specialist program staff the risk of rising recidivism is a factor. I work closely with offenders regarding domestic violence, anger management and AOD issues. It is notable that offenders have gain good insight into their offending, the risks and impacts on the community that are caused by their anti social behaviours.

I have worked for many years with both young and adult offenders and my carer commenced as a voluntary coordinator and founder of a youth organisation in a western rural community. During my six years of voluntry work, without any funding at all, there was a notable drop in young offenders crime rate. The organisation, voluntary workers and myself were granted awards presented by the Governor General Sir William Dean.

I believe the Cessnock Correctional Centre will benefit if it remains government ran and continues with the intensive programs currently being presented. However, any issues that have been identified in the staffing or running of the centre may require management to addressed at a Departmental level.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to put forward my view in this matter.