

**INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF
CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Submission for the Inquiry into the closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW facilities

Regarding the Terms of reference the following questions are raised.

A. Clarification is needed regarding downsizing of any Corrective Services NSW facilities. Does downsizing refer to: inmate numbers; to officer numbers; or, to support staff numbers? If it refers to inmate numbers what guarantees will be included to maintain commensurate staff/inmate ratios at the receiving facility? Will the economic or financial analysis include hardship on all families that have a member as an inmate?

B. Whose voices/ opinions will be included in the Rural Impact Statement? Will guarantees be given that the RIS will take into consideration any likely travelling and financial hardships for those families with inmates being transferred to remote locations?

C. Will the families of inmates be included for “all consultation that was undertaken prior to the decision with stakeholders, including local government, chambers of commerce, industrial bodies, prisoner welfare groups and staff...”? Not all inmates’ families are affiliated with prisoner welfare groups and their input needs to be included.

D. Which and whose costs are going to be discussed and examined? Will they be including social, emotional, and personal financial costs for family members that a transfer of an inmate can entail?

E. What about the impacts on all Australian families from closure or downsizing including those of non-Indigenous inmates?

F. What is the likelihood of the long-term plans including handing management of the facilities over to the private sector? NSW tax payers funded construction and maintenance of the facilities to provide a public corrections service, but how can ongoing maintenance be justified if the facilities are no longer providing the service?

G. Rather than seeking input into potential closure or downsizing this suggests that some heritage sites have already been targeted for closure – so when did the consultation take place? Is it in the public interest to retain sites that are no longer operational or functioning for the purpose for which they were constructed with tax payer funds?

H. What have been the international examples for creating new public service jobs for personnel trained for a specific role and with particular skills that are not easily transferrable? How cost effective is it to close existing facilities when alternative and commensurate job opportunities do not exist in rural and regional areas?

I. What have been the driving forces and/or initiatives behind this Inquiry? Are any guarantees in place that this is not an exercise in preparation for privatizing NSW Corrective Services? The following are some questions needing clarification. Is recidivism down thereby reducing the numbers of inmates to be detained and managed? Have crime rates been dropping requiring less inmate spaces? Has

technology increased thereby reducing ratios between officers and inmates? How will existing segregation systems be managed should downsizing or closure occur? Can NSW Corrective Services still be recommended as a secure career option for the future? What is considered as being the acceptable lowest limit of savings, taking into consideration redundancies and long-term financial effects, for supporting closure or downsizing?

Thank you for your attention to the above questions. I hope they will be given due consideration during your deliberations.