

Submission
No 92

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

Name: Mr William White

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Before I recently retired I was a Sheriff's Officer at Griffith with the rank of Senior Sergeant.

Some years ago a person in custody at Juneee gaol was required at Griffith District Court. He was transported by one officer from the private company running the prison at that time. After lodging that prisoner in the court holding cell the officer then left the court complex for his half hour lunch break, leaving the prisoner unsupervised. Luck prevailed that he did not find the prisoner dead upon his return. My point is that private operators are profit driven. Two officers should have accompanied the prisoner so each in turn could have had a break, however it would have doubled the cost. If the state sentences people to prison the state should be directly responsible for safeguarding them with professional prison officers who can be held directly responsible as Crown employees. Saving money should not be the reason for privatising prisons. If so it could be argued that it would be cheaper using private security guards instead of police & private solicitors & barristers instead of DPP.