

Submission
No 381

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

Organisation:

Name: Mr Carl Walker

Telephone:

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Sir/Madam

I have been a correctional officer for 13 years and have worked in a number of gaols in that time. When I joined the service I did so with the intent that I could help society in providing a safer place where my family and friends could live, not just a job that I do for eight hours a day. In that time, I have taken an interest in correction practises in other states and countries, particularly private sector facilities. It is my belief, that financially benefiting from the incarceration of offenders is morally and ethically wrong. It has been documented that these private companies have repeatedly been found to be in breach of human rights violations, brought on by breaking laws to receive financial benefit which is the sole reason for them to be in the business of Corrections. In NSW, Junee Correctional Centre has been found to falsley have inmates classification heightened to receive more money for their time behind bars and their gaol state falsely increased by beds empty that are stated as been full.

The basic way for these organisations to benefit financially is to have less overhead costs and more profit, is to cut programs designed to stop reoffending. This will place more offenders back in gaols and place the general public's safety at risk, not to mention the inmates unluckily enough to be housed there, or the staff trying to do there job and be able to go home to their family at the end of the day and costing more to the NSW tax payer. Victoria which had a private company running a female institution, just recently had to be taken back over by the state, Queensland also had to do the same with gaols in their state, South Australia likewise. Overseas private correctional providers have been prosecuted for bribing judges to hand out larger than normal sentences to offenders, enabling these companies to receive larger profits for their share holders.

Rehabilitation off inmates will never be cheap, but with public systems, it is undertaken with the benefit to society, its number one priority not a small number of share holders who will be financially benefited.

Private correctional companies are international companies that take over institutions in other countries ,with any profits made sent overseas, leaving no benefit to the communities that have these gaols in them or the state as a whole. Therefore, I urge you to make the right desision and leave gaols in public hands, making a safer more efficient state for us all to live in.

Yours sincerely
Carl Walker