

Submission  
No 240

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

**Name:** Ms Mary O'Connell

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I am opposed to the privatisation of NSW prisons. I believe it is wrong to operate a correctional centre for profit. I also believe it opens the system to greater corruption as demonstrated in Pennsylvania recently. "TWO former judges in Pennsylvania have admitted to receiving more than \$2.6 million in pay-offs from companies that run private prisons for sending them minors for detention or disciplinary camps.

The admissions, which were made by judges Mark Ciavarella and Michael Conahan in a plea agreement filed in federal court last week, has sparked protests by outraged parents and relatives of youths whose cases were handled by the judges.

In the plea agreement, Ciavarella and Conahan admitted they "abused their position ... by secretly deriving more than \$2,600,000 in income ... in exchange for official actions."

Those actions included "entering into agreements guaranteeing placement of juvenile offenders with PA Child Care, LLC (and) facilitating the construction of juvenile detention facilities," according to the document.

Pennsylvania Child Care and Western Pennsylvania Child Care also stood to make tens of millions of dollars from the scheme, the plea document said." reported in teh Australian on 17 February 2009.