

**Submission  
No 105**

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

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Garry Braithwaite

To the parliamentary inquiry into the proposed privatisation of prisons.

I offer this brief submission in the hope that it may play some small part in preventing the outrageous proposal to sell-off our prison system.

Having a relative employed in a custodial role I believe I know a little about the subject. My nephew informs me that one of the reasons a number of officers now oppose the sale is because of all the untruths that are being promoted in an attempt to gain support for the proposal. He describes them as lies, half lies and lies by the omission of facts.

While the Commissioner claims that the department custodial staff misses a lot of work through sick-leave he fails to mention just what amount of the leave is **stress-related**. My nephew asks if any of your inquiry members can name him a job more likely to cause stress related illness than the one that he and his colleagues are doing, then he would certainly like to know what it is. He claims it would certainly be one job that he will not be contemplating when he gets shafted to make way for the new privatised staff.

Another claim the commissioner has made is that staff members take sick leave just to enable their mates to work overtime, and that later the mate returns the favour. This claim defies common sense. For this supposed rotting to work an officer would have to be able to nominate which officer would replace him when off sick. In a centre consisting of up to 200 staff that proposition is impossible and management know that it is. The main reason there is overtime is because of understaffing, and most of those called upon to work it hate doing so.

Commissioner Woodham made the claim at the inquiry, which was shown on the evening news, that staff were watching cricket on TV while inmates were escaping over the wall. If this did happen then where was his senior supervisory staff? The elite hand-picked staff that he has spent the past twenty years selecting. My nephew believes that if duty officers were wasting time watching cricket then there is a major problem higher up the chain of command and that maybe privatisation should start from the top down.

It is obvious there are some problems within the department but my nephew believes many of them emanate from the top

Dubbo

