

Submission
No 451

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

Name: Mr Nigel Waters

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General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission to the Inquiry into the privatisation of prisons and prison-related services.

I write to object to the NSW Government's plans to privatise both Cessnock and Parklea prisons.

Privately run prisons are inherently and unavoidably less accountable than public corrective services departments - contractual obligations can only go a limited way to replicating the checks and safeguards that apply to the public sector agencies.

I understand there is evidence that privately operated prisons experience higher rates of assaults on both prisoners and prison officers than publicly operated prisons.

I also believe the standard of care for prisoners in privately operated prisons is not as high as in public prisons.

Privatisation of prisons could also result in fewer jobs for local people.

In my view, there has not been enough independent research on the performance of private prisons in Australia to risk proceeding with steps to allow further private management of prisons.

Nigel Waters