

Submission  
No 404

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

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Telephone:**

**Date received:** 25/02/2009

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*Partially Confidential*

I am a serving Correctional Officer of nearly 16 years and I thank you for allowing me to pass comment. To date we have had very little support in our quest to keep Corrections in Public hands. As an Officer I have seen numerous changes within the system. Not always good but nothing we as professionals couldn't handle. I was informed I was losing my position via an email. I wasn't even given the courtesy of being told to my face. To the Department I am just a number. I have been at numerous meetings with Departmental Management and have asked many questions, as have my colleagues. To get an answer without some type of lie involved in it is a rarity.

From the day I joined the Department I haven't been told the truth. I make a good living and believe I get paid a good days wage for a good days work. Yes, I work overtime but not an excessive amount. I truly believe that had the Department recruited properly over the years then we wouldn't have excessive amounts of overtime. We as Officers have been asking for years to have all our positions filled with permanent positions but as you would already be aware it is the Department's stance that it is cheaper to pay overtime than employ a full-time position. Thus meaning no extra sick leave, annual leave, superannuation etc.

I was one of the thousands of officers who voted that we would no longer do overtime as it was costing the Department too much. Remember we were branded as "overtime rorters" by our Commissioner, this has since been changed to "overtime manipulators". The result of this industrial action was that we were taken to court and ordered to do overtime. Our industrial action lasted 1 day before the Department realised the trouble they were in.

Privatisation is a band-aid solution to fix a problem that the Commissioner has let spiral out of control. Start employing more staff. Overseas companies shouldn't be making money by warehousing inmates. These inmates are the responsibility of us, the taxpayer. No-one should profit from crime.

I implore you to question the Commissioner or Minister on the Departments Vision and Mission. My bet is that one of them doesn't know it. It reads as follows.

Mission: Manage offenders in a safe, secure and humane manner and reduce risks of re-offending.

Vision: Contribute to a safer community through quality correctional services.

By Privatising sections of Corrective Services I believe that it goes against what the Department has taught us. We Officers are Professional, highly trained and a major asset to not only this Government but also to the people of NSW whom I have served proudly for nearly 16 years. I ask that the Committee investigates the amount of Upper Management staff sitting in the Henry Deane building. Why do we have more General Managers/Governors than we do institutions. This Department is all about jobs for the boys and if they have to tread on a few hundred frontline workers to achieve this then they will.

I urge this Committee to Say NO to Privatisation and warn the Government that the people of NSW will not stand for this.

I thank you for hearing me. These are my own views and thoughts.