

**Submission
No 2**

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

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I have not researched the matter of privatization of prisons in extensive detail although I have read reports that every other country that has previously adopted this privatization has found it to be disastrous and has had to return to government run prisons.

Apparently there has, in all cases, been a 45% higher rate of inmate mistreatment and an equally high rate of violence to prison wardens. The prison workers know already that there is to be a reduction in salary for them. This alone already promotes dissatisfaction in the work place, which then impacts on the inmates.

Mere common sense would conclude that this situation is inevitable. No matter how many regulations are put in place or whatever assurances are made by prospective contractors, human nature has determined that a profit making organisation will employ whatever means possible to make PROFIT. Obviously this means cutting corners in every avenue, however discretely. The very idea of submitting a group of people who are being held in captivity to the even greater risk of maltreatment due to a desire for profit is outrageous and inhumane.

The situation in prisons is already less than ideal for people who really need rehabilitation and mostly don't receive it because of inadequate funding. Surely the government doesn't wish to regress on this issue. The long-term result will be more offenders returning to prison, fewer staff because of poor wages, resulting in prisoners being locked in their cells for longer periods.

I have been visiting a young man (my friend's son) who keeps re offending because of a drug problem and he has never been given any form of rehabilitation or work skills/education to enable him to adapt to society. He even requested an education programme and someone came to see him once and he never heard from them again. The only education he can receive in prison is how to become a harder criminal.

Crime on the streets is reaching frightening proportions with youths as young as 12 years carrying knives and steel bars. My youngest son is 14 and sees first hand what is going on just riding his bike with his friends at the skate parks.

I am appealing to the government to address the violence and crime in our Australia and give the perpetrators a better chance of reform rather than to put them at the mercy of capitalists only to be released into society angrier than ever.

The government cannot "cop out" over this very serious issue. The Australian public will not support that. Please look at the bigger picture and the appalling situation that will undoubtedly occur if you make the morally wrong decision to privatize the prison system.