

Supplementary
Submission
No 107a

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

Organisation: Community Against Privatisation
Name: Ms Tanya Roe
Position: Spokesperson
Date received: 20/03/2009

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SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO

THE NSW PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO PRISON PRIVATISATION.

20/3/09

Community Against Privatisation (CAP) is a non political community group based in Cessnock whose aims are to bring to the attention of the public the issues surrounding the privatisation of Prisons in NSW.

We propose to give verbal evidence of the following;

- The bullying and harassment we believe is being inflicted on the families of prison officers in Cessnock.
- Our belief that Cessnock Gaol has become an unsafe workplace as a result of the Department of Corrective Services disregard for its own policies regarding bullying and harassment.
- Cessnock has the highest unemployment rate and lowest household income of all Local Government areas in the Lower Hunter. 83 job losses have already been announced from the Bonds factory, we have lost jobs from the Health Service Laundry Division at Allandale and Kurri Hospital is under threat. The loss of further jobs as a result of prison privatization will do more harm in Cessnock than in other urban areas of NSW.

In addition to the above information regarding harassment, we further believe that the action in the past week of removing 107 prisoners late at night;

- transferring the prisoners without notice caused stress and alarm and one prisoner was hospitalized with a suspected heart attack.
- by transferring the prisoners when there was a single nurse on duty at 4am in Windsor and there was some confusion whether all medical records were transferred with them (Department policy requires all medical records to be transferred with prisoners at time of transfer) placed the prisoners and staff at risk.
- without giving the prisoners the dignity of 24 hours notice to notify their families (also required by the Departments own policies)

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- without transferring their personal possessions (also against Department policy)

.....means that the NSW Department of Corrective Services are prepared to use prisoners and staff as footballs in a game of politics.

CAP no longer has any confidence in the Department of Corrective Services' ability to manage prisons in NSW, or to competently inform the Parliament and public of NSW of how prisons are being managed in NSW.

As there is very little information on the public record regarding private prisons and their safety CAP have no confidence in the ability of the Department to make appropriate and mature judgments regarding their introduction and expansion in NSW.

Tanya Roe
Spokesperson.

Please find attached further submission from Cessnock residents.

J. Kain

The problem I have with the threat to privatise Cessnock Goal is my Daughter Sue is married to

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a prison officer and if they have to relocate then this will place a major strain on our family's close bond as I will not be able to see my grandchildren as often as I do and also my Daughter and I have a closer bond because we both have had Breast Cancer and we still have on going treatment together with her other sister.

S. Kain (Woolworths Manager Cessnock)

As the Manager of Woolworths Cessnock fruit and Veg Dept I believe that with the reduction in staff at Cessnock Correctional Center we will have a drastic reduction in the amount of current staff shopping here with that there is a great possibility of me having to lay off or reduce staff at this supermarket.

F. Kiem

I am very concerned about the threat to privatise Cessnock Goal I have a Son-in-law who works at the Goal and he is married with 3 children with his job having to move away i will be very upset as I will not be able to visit the children as often as i currently do and I also fear for the safety of the town as I believe that the number of staff working at the goal will decrease and the number of inmates will increase.

L. Atkinson (Aboriginal Community Worker)

Being the liaison officer for Aboriginal people here in Cessnock I believe that the level of rehabilitation programmes currently available at the Goal will not be available if the Goal is Privatized. I also live near the Goal with my two daughters and fear for their safety due to the lack of security privately run goals offer.

S & C Kiem

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We are very concerned about the possibility of the goal being privatised because we live close to the goal and our daughters (one of which is disabled and needs special care) as the school backs onto the goal property.

S. Oakley

I have a real problem with the State Government attempting to privatise Correctional Center at Cessnock because my husband has worked at the center since the closure of Maitland Goal and the trauma this put my family through was horrific I am born and raised in Cessnock my children all go to School in the area we belong to many charity groups and sporting organisations i am appalled at the way the Dept has handled the situation and at the way the staff have been handled throughout the process. The Dept has shown no compassion to any staff member at the center My husband has worked for the Dept for app17 years and is very upset he comes home every day visibly shaken and very worried about what will happen.

R & L Richardson

We live in the very street that leads into the Goal and are concerned about our safety with the reduction in staff at the gaol if it is privatised will our family be able to sleep at night comfortably (the way we currently do with the goal being run by the current staff) if the goal is placed in the hands of private enterprise or as I like to call them "folly pop people"

A & B Oakley

We believe that the threat to privatise Cessnock Correctional Center is totally against the Labour Party Policy and am discussed with what the State Government is trying to do. This has a greater impact with us as our sons both work for the department for the past 17 years one of which works at Cessnock,he has a young family who live in Cessnock and the thought of

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Stephen having to relocate is very upsetting to us as his mother is very ill and his wife, mother-in-law and sister-in-law have all had Breast Cancer and are all still having treatment please re-consider the thought of privatisation of the Correctional Centre

D & A Oakley (CEO Clarkson's Australia)

It is obvious that the Department Of Corrective Services is not in control of their faculties as the idea of privatising the Correctional Center at Cessnock is ridiculous. The problem to me seems as though he (Ron Woodham) is just trying to break the back of a very sound and strong Union (PSA/POVB/COVB) and yes I do know what the abbreviations mean as I have two brothers who work for the Dept one of which works at Cessnock.

B. Martin

As a young person living in Cessnock I do not want to see an overseas Private Company running our Public Assets.

D. Delaney

I have lived in Cessnock for my entire life (40yr) and am appalled at the low tactics by Ron Woodham the supposed Commissioner for Corrections who has given no support to the Staff at Cessnock and do know that the local economy will suffer from the private Company will not use the local Business Center for their every day running of the Goal.

J & K Gillmore (Owner/Manager Little Green Frog Advertising)

I have lived here in Cessnock for my whole life and am raising a young family I fear for the safety of my children with the idea that privately run goals have an acceptable level of escapes on a bonus based system

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A & C Peacock (Manager IGA Cessnock)

As the manager of IGA Supermarket I have had the pleasure over a number of years having the goal purchase large amounts of stock through my store for there yearly Picnic Day Events this will stop if the goal is privatised.

K & R prince (Aboriginal Liaison Officer Newcastle)

Ok the Privately run Prison don't offer the same programmes as the Public Correctional Centre's do, this is one of the only ways they can make a profit Inmates for Profit I don't think so.

J.

L. Bowie

McLean Street Cessnock

0249914548

I am very upset at the idea of a privately run goal as I live just down the road from the goal and have two small children will we be safe no I don't think so because the current staff run by the State Government are doing a fantastic job

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CAROL SOUTHCOMBE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

MY NAME IS CAROL AND I AM EMPLOYED BY T.S.L CATERING, WHO ARE CONTRACTED TO DELIVER THE FOOD BUY UPS TO CESSNOCK JAIL. I AM THE SUPERVISOR AND I HAVE FOUR WOMEN WHO ALSO WORK WITH ME

I AM VERY CONCERED ABOUT THE PRIVITATION OF CESSNOCK JAIL AS IF THIS HAPPENS I WILL LOOSE MY JOB.

IT WILL ABSOLUTLY DESTROY MY FAMILY AS MY WAGE PAYS OUR HOUSE PAYMENTS, AND WITH OUT MY WAGE COMING IN WE COULD LOOSE OUR HOUSE.

FINDING A JOB IN CESSNOCK IS NOT AN EASY TASK AS THEY ARE FAR AND FEW BETWEEN, AND ONCE THE JAIL IS CLOSED IT WILL BE EVEN HARDER, AND I DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO LEAVE THE AREA TO FIND WORK.

I HAVE FOUR CHILDREN TWO OF WHOM ARE STILL AT SCHOOL, LOOSING MY JOB WILL AFFECT THEM AS WELL, BECAUSE I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO PAY FOR THERE EDUCATION WHICH MEANS THEY SUFFER FROM NO FAULT OF THERE OWN.

I REALLY HOPE YOU ARE THINKING LONG AND HARD ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND HOW MANY FAMILIES YOU ARE DESTROYING.

KIND REGARDS

C. Southcombe