

Submission  
No 234

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Regarding the inquiry into the proposed privatisation of prisons and prison related services, I seek to voice my sincere condemnation of these proposals.

Being a serving member of law enforcement, I wish to lay out, in laymen's terms, the procedure of when a crime or crimes are committed by a criminal(s):

The offence is committed, they(the offender(s)) are arrested by the New South Wales Police. They are tried by Magistrates representing the people of New South Wales. They are sent to secure, safe and humane prisons administrated by the government of New South Wales. The general public is content knowing that the rapists, pedophiles, murderers and individuals who seek to terrorise the people of New South Wales are being handled by the New South Wales Department of Corrective Services.

To simply "hand over" a prison to a private contractor has far reaching ramifications to the people of NSW yet it is beneficial to the NSW government. The government will basically pay a private (usually foreign) company a sum of money generally lower than it costs to run a publicly operated prison, and in doing so, washes its hands of any escapes, murders, riots, assaults on prisoners and Officers etc. and can basically say "we don't run that prison, its not our responsibility" meanwhile, the general public, who are overwhelmingly the victims of crime, are let down as a result of inmates escapes and knowing that the Australian system of secure incarceration is letting them down.

The boss of a publicly run prison is directly answerable to senior management, who in turn is answerable to a government minister tasked with ensuring all offenders in custody are justly and fairly sanctioned by sentences imposed by the NSW courts and the people of NSW.

The manager of a privately run prison is answerable to a CEO of a large (foreign) multi-national corporation in ensuring that profits are maximised through prisons being crammed and over-populated, minimal staff on duty and corners being cut to maximise bottom line strategies at the expense of prisoners, Officers and the community at large.

Publicly run prisons: Run by the government to oversee the secure and safe custody of prisoners.

Privately run prisons: An emphasis on profit, profit, profit with the prisoners' welfare and community's needs in second place.

Rehabilitation and a focus on reducing re-offending is the primary objective of a state run prison which incorporates a multitude of programs and educational initiatives to ensure a safer incarceration of inmates is what us, as the general public demand, certainly not a failure of an integral part of the justice system as seen in many, many countries as close as Queens Land and New Zealand and as far away as Canada and the UK with privately operated prisons as studies have shown.

Keep prisoners in secure custody for our taxpayer dollars, don't keep them insecure for a profit.

Awaiting the outcome of this, the ballot box is firmly in my mind.