

Submission  
No 214

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

Name: Name suppressed  
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*Partially Confidential*

I wish to make a submission in relation to overtime incurred at Surry Hills Cells as stated by Mr Ron Woodham recently. I had worked at Surry Hills Police Cells for a number of years and know first hand how the overtime distribution is sanctioned.

1. The overtime at Surry Hills is sanctioned by management of Surry Hills and by Management of Court Escort Security Unit. Surry Hills has 2 fulltime commissioned officers who monitor and authorise the overtime for that centre and request through the roster unit for that overtime to be filled.
2. The overtime as mentioned by Mr Woodham 'is not' self managed but is administered and managed by a rostering unit located at Court Escort Security Unit located at Silverwater. Any request for overtime must be called in by the rostering unit and **not by Surry Hills Correctional Officers under any circumstances.** Any request for overtime is scrutinised on a daily basis by that unit along with management as per the ROSTERING PRINCIPLES GUIDELINES set out by management.
3. Any overtime incurred on any given day is signed off by management and only management not by any Non commissioned officer.
4. Surry Hills staffing profile is only staffed with permanent staff to house up to 20 inmates. Surry Hills can hold up to 90 inmates and are regularly holding anywhere up to 87 remand inmates for several days due to the bed shortages across the state throughout the jails. Management have always stated that it is cheaper to run any centre or court location on overtime due to the fact that the officer on overtime will not incur any additional expense such as sick leave, holidays/annual leave, training, workers compensation, picnic day, uniform costs, administration costs, superannuation contributions etc.
5. Surry Hills have had a Bail Video Link court Suite for approximately 18 months. The staffing for that location has always been run predominately on overtime and has regularly not been filled with any permanent staffing. The Video Link Suite operates weekends and public holidays.
6. Another comment from Mr Woodham is the mention of "Surry Hills would only roster their own on and no outsiders could come in". This is ridiculous. The rostering unit cannot get staff to work at Surry Hills due to the demanding and taxing workload and the lack of available city

parking. On a regular basis when Surry Hills numbers are high, the rostering unit will telephone Surry Hills Cells and tell the executive officer in charge they cannot fill some positions. They have tried courts, court escort security unit staff from other locations, transport staff, administration staff, jails and even head office staff. Surry Hills Cells staff regularly run short staffed for this very reason not because permanent staff at Surry Hills Cells will not allow "outsiders" to come in.

Commissioned officers have been taken out of the equation in relation to overtime due to Mr Woodham placing commissioned officers on an annual salary and unable to do overtime. As a trade off, Commissioned officers were paid an initial increase in salary of up to \$16,000 plus increased superannuation benefits.

Finally I would like to thank Deputy Commissioner, Offender Management and Operations Mr Ian Mclean for acknowledging Surry Hills Police Cells in the minutes of the 'General purpose standing committee No.3.' Inquiry into the privatisation of prisons and prison related services. Mr McLean stated on page 21...

*"Surry Hills in particular has a huge influx. It is the front end of the system where we receive in off the street. That in itself goes into very high overtime and it is through court directions that we have to staff at certain levels. We do not have a choice. When it reaches a certain number of inmates, through court directions, we have to place overtime in there."*

**Throughout the state within Corrective Services, overtime is incurred likened to a bus depot. If you have 10 buses and only 6 bus drivers you are going to have a problem.**

In relation to "roting" or "mismanagement" of overtime at Surry Hills and other areas I would ask Mr Woodham to action his comments by referring this matter to ICAC immediately.

I thank the inquiry for taking the time to read this submission and hope that this submission is of some assistance.