

Submission  
No 304

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

Name: Name suppressed  
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*Partially Confidential*

Dear Committee Members

I have been in Parklea CC as a Correctional Officer for nine years. During this time I have seen lot of changes in Parklea. When I started here, inmates' population was about 270 with 220 Officers. Today's state is 823 inmates and 242 Officers. This increase in efficiency is without equal in NSW Corrective System. This was achieved by productive step by step negotiation between POVB and the Department. We did act when we felt that safety of staff could be compromised, but overall we've shown more than willingness to become more cost effective. Last year The Department ceased any negotiation with our union Sub Branch. Few months later we've learn about privatisation plans for us and Cessnock. When we ask question why those two jails were chosen, answers we get are mystifying.

- Overtime roting
- Roster manipulation
- Bad work ethics
- Escape from Parklea seven years ago

In 1999 during my job interview for this job I've asked recruitment Officer about correctional officer's salary. He said to me" Base rate is not really good but I can guarantee you that you can make at last 25-30% extra in penalties and overtime.

I do my overtime. One or two in fortnight, if it is available. Sometimes it is not and sometimes roster clerk tells you" please come in, help us out, we need someone".

I wish I would not need to do overtime, but when I refuse overtime there is not a feeling of satisfaction but quilt. I feel like I have refused money for my personal comfort instead of providing for my family that little extra. We have only one modest car and modest house which I, like lots of others will be paying of for years to come.

We work 28 day roster. As such we are given little flexibly allowing us to swap shifts and days of between ourselves. I do those changes for one reason only. To make this job more compatible with my family life. I don't do this to create or gain overtime and can not see how one would be able to do so.

How can you measure job success of Correctional Officer? Sometimes we could, if inmates never return to custody, but mostly we never know. Other measure would be How safe and humane imprisonment we provide. We do not have financial profit to show for.

Two inmates escaped from Parklea in 2002. Two Officers working in video Monitoring room paid penalty for their performance of duty. They did not watch cricket on TV. Departmental investigation had found inadequacies in procedures, which were then rectified. Does this call for privatisation of Parklea?