

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

Name: Ms Charmian Eckersley

Date received: 2/03/2009

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

**Submission to The privatisation of prisons and prison-related services
(Inquiry).**

Dear Sir/Madam

- I strongly object to the NSW Government's plans to privatise both Cessnock and Parklea prisons.
- Prisons operated on a profit incentive is a philosophically wrong approach to punishment because there is a motivation to keep prisoners in gaol and to keep them coming back to gaol. The recidivism figures for NSW are amongst the worst in Australia. Programs necessary to keep people out of gaol are what is needed - not a system that logically will work to keep people in gaol.
- I believe privately operated prisons experience higher rates of assaults on both prisoners and prison officers than publicly operated prisons. The Baxter experience of private gaols is a glaring example of how morally wrong private prison systems can be.
- I also believe the standard of care for prisoners in privately operated prisons is not as high as in public prisons.
- Privatisation of Cessnock Prison will result in less jobs in our local area.
- There has not been enough independent research on the performance of private prisons in Australia to risk proceeding with steps to allow further private management of prisons.
- In short - to save money on prisons one should introduce the post prison care system operating in Victoria. Cut costs by keeping people out of prison.

Charmian Eckersley