

Submission  
No 178

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

**Name:** Ms Kerrie Lay

**Date received:** 2/03/2009

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

I am submitting my protest against the Prisons of NSW being privatised.

I feel there has not been one example of correctional services being privatised elsewhere in the world showing this would benefit society as a whole.

The USA has been an extremely poor example of 'Privatisation of the Jails', with prisoner intake numbers soaring and return offenders increasing dramatically.

I strongly feel the mentality of privatising an essential public service is ludicrous

I have read and believe the following statements to be true in regard to the privatisation of our prison systems:

Private prison companies earn more money if there are more prisoners, staying in prison for longer, and coming back sooner. This incentive is completely at odds with how the justice system should operate.

Assaults on staff and inmates more than double in private prisons, according to a 2001 United States Department of Justice Study.

*There is a large amount of evidence from both here and overseas that private prisons are chronically understaffed, underfunded and cut corners when it comes to inmate care and rehabilitation.*

There is reduced transparency when big business runs prisons. Due to commercial secrecy, companies have limited obligations to disclose sensitive information.

Yours faithfully,

Kerrie Lay