

**Submission
No 14**

**INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF
CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

Name: Ms Merye White

Date received: 1/11/2012

Inquiry into the Closure or Downsizing of Corrective Services NSW Facilities Community Impact Survey



Name:

MERYE WHITE

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Postcode:

What is your connection to the Grafton Gaol? (eg, employee, town resident)

> 10yr employment as health professional (registered nurse)
with Justice Health @ Grafton Correctional Centre
Majority work involved mental health / drug & alcohol
issues

Why is Grafton Gaol important to the community of Grafton?

One of the largest employer in region
It brought strong growth as families left Sydney's
high cost of living enabling affordable housing
with lower cost living
Involvement by employees within sport/sporting &
community groups also church groups & schools.
Volunteering with RFS SES etc
Education numbers increased across the board from
Daycare centres through to TAFE
Families of prisoners moved to region for
accessibility of visits & family supports - not to
be isolated.

How will the closure or downsizing of Grafton Gaol affect employment opportunities in your community?

Very limited employment opportunities as North Coast is a known high unemployment region
Families/ partnerships/ friendships will be fractured
Less volunteering for all sports/community groups
Increase of Centrelink assistance

How will the closure or downsizing of Grafton Gaol affect local business and the local economy of Grafton?

Local businesses lose employees/contracts or even
businesses will close.
What becomes of Grafton gaol on heritage value
Specialized teachers/health staff/mental health &
drug & alcohol workers are lost & or displaced

Please return your completed survey ASAP to Kate Minter at Unions NSW at kminter@unionsnsw.org.au or Level 3, Trades Hall, 4 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW, 2000