

Submission  
No 229

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 24/02/2009

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*Partially Confidential*

I am a Correctional Officer, commenced employment with Department of Corrective Services in October 1985.

I was posted to Parklea in June 1986, when I first arrived at Parklea the maximum inmate population was 238.

The staffing profile for the centre was 218.

Over the last 23 years the inmate population has grown to the now agreed level of 823, whilst the Correctional officer component has only risen to 242.

So to say that Parklea has not assisted the Department in its battle to remain competitive in an environment where the fiscal burdens are severe across all sectors, of both Government and Private Industries. Warrants challenge.

I have seen massive growth in the support staff of this Department, and when I say support staff I am not sure what exactly their function and purpose is.

I have seen massive growth in the inmate Population State wide, latest figure was over 10,100.

What I haven't witnessed is any commensurate growth in the Correctional Officer Ranks, us the frontline worker the people who day in day out, deal face to face with the worst group people in society, we go to work everyday do our job, then through the Grace of God or our Professionalism go home to our loved ones.

If this sitting Government where to do a full audit of the Corrective Services Department, including retired staff that are now engaged as paid consultants, I am sure that it would find that the frontline worker the Correctional Officer is in the most cost effective category, my point being that if we have a staffing figure of around 4000 Correctional Officers, what do the other 3000 employees of the Department do, I feel that the Government should reduce those numbers down to a more realistic figure, to the point that we could employ more fulltime Correctional Officers, and thus reduce their cost even further through the diminished need to use overtime to fill vacant posts.

We the Correctional Officer agree that there needs to be Reform across all areas of the Department, and as such would welcome the opportunity to assist the Government to our fullest ability; Privatising Correctional Centre's is not the most cost effective option available.