

Submission  
No 177

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

**Name:** Mr Steve Morrison

**Date received:** 27/02/2009

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## Privatisation of Parklea Correctional Centre

- I have been employed as a permanent NSW Correctional Officer for the past 4 ½ years of which this time I have worked at Parklea Correctional Centre for the last 3 ½ years.
- I transferred from Long Bay Correctional Centre to Parklea and made a decision with my wife to buy a house close to Parklea for convenience.

Convenience - Reduce travelling time

Reduce travelling costs

Ride my push bike to work to reduce pollution, maintain fitness for work and save money  
Fast response time from home to work if required for any serious situation that arises, to assist my fellow work colleagues and the Department  
Spend more time with my family before and after work

- At the time I felt my position and work location would be secure and this allowed me to also maintain my fitness by riding my push bike to and from work regularly.
- Since buying my house I have started a family and accepted all financial responsibility to support my family.
- On the 16th of February 2009 my wife re entered the work force in a part time position to help out during today's expensive economy and prepare for the unknown future of my employment.
- At Parklea I have had the opportunity to arrange my shifts to care for my son during the day allowing my wife to attend work and regain her personal independence.
- With the privatisation of Parklea Correctional Centre I will lose the option of working afternoon shifts resulting in my wife resigning to care for my son or full time child care which is not fare to my son and not affordable.
- Before being informed that Parklea was being privatised I applied for Senior Correctional Officers position at Parklea which was later rescinded denying me the chance of promotion and career development opportunities.
- My believe is the privatisation of Parklea and Cessnock will not fix the NSW government financial problems only disrupt the staffs personal lives and incur future safety and security breeches resulting in further government costs.
- As a Parklea employee I have not been given an opportunity to suggest or discuss any changes to reduce the costs of operating the centre whilst maintaining safety and security. The smart approach to reduce costs would be to utilise the local staff's knowledge and experience for alternative suggestions which may prove to be effective, with out

privatising Parklea and Cessnock prisons  
training private staff  
affecting the community and staff's personal lives.

- This approach would save money to the NSW Government and assure security and safety is maintained to protect the community and the wellbeing of the staff and inmates. Another advantage of this will be an increase staff morale boosting performances and Correctional Centre statistics.

To be a Correctional Officer and labelled as a rorter of overtime by the Corrective Service Commissioner is not fare. Mr Woodham does not know me personally and only treats me as another number. I have received criticism from people who know I am a Correctional Officer and have seen the allegations of rorters through the media. This has not been fair to me and my family as I perform my daily duties in a professional and diligent manner with the aim to reduce re offending in a safe and humane environment. I have also experienced troubles in my relationship as I have managed serious situations at Parklea which incurred involuntary over time affecting my family commitments and creating personal stress. As a part of our award we are required by the Department to do a reasonable amount of overtime. The reason for this is the Department has not increased the staffing levels to cope with the rising increases of the inmate population.

With the Privatisation of Parklea Correctional Centre the following negativity will have a direct impact on me and my family this will occur by

Increasing the cost of travelling

Increasing travel time to and from work

Loosing a second income for my family

Putting pressure on my relationship with my wife staying at home and stresses of working and travelling to another location

Lowering my morale within the Department as my location will not feel safe

Separate me from the friendships, team members and work colleagues I have come to trust and rely on with protecting my safety in an unpredictable environment in which we work.

And I am just 1 of over 1000 staff members who will be affected

**PUBLIC SAFETY NOT PRIVATE PROFIT**

S.Morrison