

Submission  
No 270

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

**Name:** Mrs Karen Stacey  
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Please allow me to submit my personal opinions on the privatisation of Parklea and Cessnock Correctional Centres. Firstly one must consider the workings of the other private prisons throughout Australia and closer to home Junee Correctional Centre. Are these Centres the success story the Government would have us believe or are they so heavily subsidised in the way of Government handouts that no one actually knows if they run efficiently or not. This in turn can allow state Governments to manipulate figures to suit whatever their agenda might be, I am sure if the NSW

Government wanted Junee to look like lead weight around the neck of taxpayers they could easily do it. I am confident in saying that if a private company was required to provide the people of NSW the same level of service in the form of staff training, educational services, rehabilitation of offending behaviour programs and the thousands of man hours supplied to local communities, then our Government would struggle to offload them because the cost would be prohibitive. As it currently stands public prisons provide all of these services and more. The public take great satisfaction in the knowledge that our prison system is owned by them. In my opinion prisons for profit can only lead to a loss of professionalism, and the way the public view the entire system. The essence of a private company is to profit from its investments. Things like Code of conduct and ethics, Offender welfare and programs, will suffer at the hands of a run for profit organisation.

Private prisons also have the luxury of picking and choosing the type of offender they wish to house, for instance wouldn't it be nice to work in a Gaol housed by healthy traffic offenders rather than rapists, murderers, armed robbers, terminally ill inmates, insulin or methadone dependant inmates.

Why must there be privatisation?. Is it to put the PSA back in its place? Are Parklea and Cessnock costing the taxpayer substantially more per head than say MRRC? or Ivanhoe prisons? Has anyone actually spoken with any of the offenders that have had the misfortune of being housed at Junee? If this was to happen it paints a picture of a typical private run business, cutting corners to squeeze an extra buck for the shareholder.

I am dubious about the Departments motivations and believe that Gaols should be seen as an essential asset of State Governments as is Police and the Attorney Generals Department. A private Gaol in NSW, I believe is not as private as the Government would have us believe, have Junee stand on its own for twelve months on its current budget and with no restrictions regarding the classification of inmates it houses and no support from the other centres, meaning no supplied clothing, no staff training, no CSI frozen meals etc.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinions regarding this important issue. The people of NSW want prisons to remain public. Please take the time to investigate the success or otherwise of other private prisons in Australia then reflect upon the professionalism of our current system. I understand the difficult times the NSW Government is in however in my opinion, privatisation is not the answer, it will become a serious burden to the taxpayer and once the decision is made, it cannot be undone.

Karen Stacey