

Submission  
No 51

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

**Organisation:** Wagga Wagga Branch of Country Labor  
**Name:** Mr Bryce Wilson  
**Position:** Branch Secretary  
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Dear committee,

The Wagga Wagga Branch of Country Labor is opposed to both the current privatisation of Junee correctional facility and strongly opposed to any further expansion of privatisation in our prisons.

The Branch's opposition is primarily moral one. It is the view of Branch members that private ownership of places of incarceration cannot be seen to accord with basic ethical principles. If a sentence of imprisonment represents the ultimate criminal sanction that can be provided by our society then surely that society has an obligation to operate those places were this incarceration is affected.

Whilst society has an overwhelming interest in the rehabilitation of offenders what interest can a private company have in such rehabilitation?

In short, our concerns regarding the private ownership of State correctional facilities are as follows:-

1. that the State government has a moral obligation to administer the application of the ultimate criminal sanction available to the State's Courts; and
2. that the citizens of this State have a genuine interest in the rehabilitation of offenders. This interest cannot be shared by a private company whose concern must lay in generating profit. It follows that the State should secure this interest by taking responsibility for the administration of its correctional centres.
3. the Branch acknowledges the arguments of efficiency in our prison's as the reason for having private ownership scattered through correctional services. However, this seems at odds with other important state run services such as, Electricity generation, the City transport network, Health and Hospitals and Education.

Bryce Wilson on Behalf of the Wagga Wagga Branch of Country Labor