

Submission  
No. 303

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

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

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Partially Confidential

Thank you for the opportunity of forwarding some questions for the inquiry. I have some very basic questions.

In regards to Parklea this centre was NOT designed to house over 800 inmates. But due to demand the numbers have grown considerably. As Parklea was not engineered or designed hold over 800, is it not reasonable to believe that design shortfalls should have been upgraded with new technologies plus engineering upgrades. It appears the department has tried to save money in the short term by increase the security and design shortfalls with personal. Building a new Area/wing onto the current centre causing more stress on the current centres facilities, does not count as upgrading or maintenance.

Can the department provide any evidence that privatisation is safer and more proficient money, safety, security wise. How does privatisation have a positive effect on the community.

Has the department consulted with Staff members at Parklea (as per OH&S legislation) and or the immediate community in regards to the possible changes? What evidence do they have on the consultation process?

The Staff Members at Parklea Correction Centre have been repeatedly told that Privatisation will happen no matter what the pronouncement of any inquiry. My understanding is I voted the NSW Government to administer the state I live in. Why does the NSWDCS Commissioner feel he can over rule my elected state government?

With the current economic down turn why is the state adding to the economic predicament by reducing employment, employment standards, awards, safety and adding to the confusion in the community with rushing this process. Surely more studies and investigation must be conducted and more comparisons between the Public and Private sectors should be made. This is public money and not the NSWDCS Commissioner slush fund.

It has been clearly stated on several occasions by the NSWDCS Commissioner that he will never consult with the union. Is privatisation just a way of avoiding consulting with employees, committee groups, inmates and other key stakeholders.

Does the NSW Police, NSW Ambulance service, NSW Fire Brigade, NSW Health and other key groups been consulted.

During the current inquiry I personally feel that parliamentary privilege has been abused by the use of propoganda and personal attacks of Parklea staff. The NSWDCS Commissioner has stated Parklea Correctional Officers are to blame for an escape from a sterile zone in Area 3. Why did the Commissioner fail to divulge that executive staff of NSWDCS had decided to unman five tower that month. The same tower that was required to supervising and prevent escapes from that area.

Why does the NSWDCS Commissioner blame Parklea Officers for two overseas criminals (Mexican-should have been on high security status) escaping from Parklea? The question is why are 2 highly wanted overseas criminals able to remain a normal placement at Parklea Correctional Centre. Why did the department fail to inform Correctional Officers of any intelligence or simple case management of the two inmates?

It has been stated by the NSWDCS Commissioner that Parklea Correctional Centre has poor workplace practices. Does the NSWDCS Commissioner have statistics form his department and other key stakeholders? Has the NSWDCS Commissioner have any evidence from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research showing a high crime rate at Parklea correctional Centre. How does Parklea compare to other Correctional Centres in Australia in regards to staff and inmate numbers, disturbances, and contraband found.

And most importantly if the Parklea Staff members are such a concern why hasn't the NSWDCS Commissioner recognised the problem and introduced solutions. Where is the evidence of regulation, retraining, disciplines, and consultation? Is there any evidence of consultation in regards to employee standards or workplace practices?

Poor management and leadership encourages and breeds poor performance. What has the NSWDCS Commissioner done to improve Parklea standards? What has the NSWDCS Commissioner done to raise moral.

Thank you.