

Submission  
No 318

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

**Name:** Mr Simon Kelly

**Date received:** 25/02/2009

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Simon Kelly. I was a Custodial Officer in the NSW Department of Corrective Services until late 2007 for approximately 10 years. I have been travelling through the United States and Canada for the past year and have visited several Correctional institutions in both countries and has witnessed the stark contrast between the two. The Canadian, a system of mostly public, and the American a highly privatised. Surely these two nations should ring a loud and clear bell about the issues of privatisation. Our concern should not be in saving the government money, making private corporations wealthy and "racking and stacking" human beings in order to cut costs and increase profit. Our duty as men and women is to the community but also the individuals housed in our institutions. Government institutions reduce recidivism by the use of programs, training of staff and interaction with the people housed with the walls. The rates of reoffending of people housed in private prisons speak for themselves. They are dangerously understaffed, and cannot protect either officers or inmates. They cannot interact with inmates because there are no staff on the ground. They are highly automated to reduce staff numbers and human contact with the inmates. Human beings need to interact to heal. We cannot help these people with by isolating them when they already feel isolated from the community.

We are not American. We are Australians who care for their fellow man no matter what his crime or disservice. These people need to go back into the community in better shape than they left or we have achieved nothing but a self-perpetuating cycle. Please, please take time to look at the people who propose such ideas as privatisation. What possible motives could they have when the facts are stark and contrast. Delve into their pasts and look into what they have to gain from such suggestions because people who are willing to suggest implementation of private systems of corrections can surely see it is a path to individual profit, not community care. Look at the facts between these two countries and let's learn from their experiences so we don't subject our communities to the level of violence and hate that the US experience at such a high frequency and intensity.

We need to take care of each other inside and outside of the walls. If we want to save money let's reduce recidivism and cut the cost to our community and government. Private Prisons have provided only profit for corporations, not protection and prosperity of the community.

Please do what you know is right and not what makes money at the expense of us all.

Thanks for your time.