

Submission  
No 384

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

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Telephone:**

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

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Partially Confidential

I am deeply concerned about the Department of Corrective Services planning to sack the CESU staff and putting on private contractors.

I work in the Batemans Bay LAC and police station as a cleaner/supervisor. I am worried about the security issues that could arise from inexperienced and unprofessional guards escorting the prisoners to and from court. I believe this will give more opportunities to escape. As a member of the community I am also concerned about the way the prisoners will be treated. The CESU currently manage the inmates at a very high standard of professionalism, ensuring a safe community.

I know that in the past private contractors have managed places like Woomera where the detainees were very badly treated and there was a high incidence of suicide. There is also the issue of OHS for the prisoners and other staff due to the lack of training and skills of security guards in the management of dangerous and highly agitated prisoners (many with infectious blood born diseases). This defies the NSW Government OHS duty of care policy and injury prevention strategies.

Please use some common sense when deciding on whether or not privatisation of gaols and CESUs like the one at Batemans Bay should go ahead. In these hard economic times it seems to counter productive to put off hard working people, only to have those from outside with no skills or training to run something that could be done locally by professional staff.