

Submission  
No 138

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

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Telephone:**

**Date received:** 1/03/2009

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*Partially Confidential*

## Committee Members

I have been in the employ of Corrective Services for 11 years and though I am not a prison officer my role is vital within the prison system. Each of us working at Parklea and Cessnock hold similar concerns and fears about Privatization. I fear for the safety of my colleagues, those prison officers whose reputations have been blackened. They face potential death or serious injury every day they walk into a prison...even on days when they are called in for overtime. One cannot just pull overtime out of a hat, the need has to exist. Why? Ask this question. Do I believe that reforms and change need to happen? Absolutely. Is there fault on both sides of the debate? Absolutely. However, if this goes ahead make no mistake, businesses are not there to do anything other than make profit. Do not be naive enough to think they would be there for the greater good. Junee has no Welfare officers..Even the Commissioner has stated this, however the Nagle report into treatment of inmates in custody recommended the immediate introduction of Welfare support staff. As stated by the Commissioner , welfare have a "narrow role" I am sorry but No role could be wider or cover more area's. Private companies will need to reduce costs so how will they achieve this? I can tell you I believe by decreasing the standard of person they are prepared to hire to work in prisons. Will corruption, introduction of drugs, violence in gaols and deaths in custody increase? Yes, I believe it will. But above all else, this government has a responsibility to the people to manage the problems not flick the responsibility to someone else when it all becomes too hard to deal with. What message does that send to inmates, or the public. But on a very personal note, we, the family of Parklea and Cessnock count on each other every single day for our safety and sanity and support. The pain and anxiety this has caused cannot be quantified, it just is. There are solutions, but this is not the one that should be entertained.

Thank you