

Submission  
No 25

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

Name: Name suppressed  
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*Partially Confidential*

## Committee Members

I have been employed by Dept. Corrective Services as a Correctional Officer for 20 years. I am a loyal hard working member of the family of staff at Parklea Correctional Centre, by comparison to some here I am still a junior officer. There are many of us that have put more than half our lives into this department. Our aim is to serve the public by keeping them safe, keeping the Inmates safe until they are deemed to be fit to live in our community, and keeping us safe so we can go home at the end of our shift.

About 6 years ago the Department sent to each Correctional centre at great expense to the tax payer a group of highly paid Commissioned officers and contracted retired Commissioned officers to introduce The Way Forward.

The Way Forward was put to us as a way of doing our job more efficiently and effectively, some of these ideas were good, others not so good however none that couldn't be 'nuttet out'. Never was privatisation part of The Way Forward. In fact privatisation was used as a threat if The Way Forward was not embraced by us. Over the last 6 years we the officers in the front line have been asking when and where is the Way Forward, to no avail from the Department. There were 3 new Centres opened as Way Forward Centres, with an Island Award. Apart from this, The Way Forward seemed to die a quiet death.

Now, here we are with the Department telling us Privatisation is part of the Way Forward. The Department have been given many cost saving options by staff over a number of years all of which have been ignored.

I have a few questions,

How can the Department justify the money it has spent over the last 6 years, when all they can come up with is to 'bail out' and upheave so many loyal staff members?

How can the Commissioner have his contract renewed whilst he was on 7months sick leave?

Are any of the highly paid Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Deputy Commissioner etc going to be held accountable for the mess this Department is in?

Why does this Department have so many highly paid Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners?

Why does this Department have so many Commanders, Governors, General Managers, and Managers of Security? There are far more Governors, General Managers and Managers of Security than there are Correctional Centres. This Department has numerous Governors, General Managers and Managers of Security sitting on 'reserve benches' in head office, yet still they promote more. Why?

I believe privatisation is not the answer to solving the issues with this department, there are far better options, and staff on the front line have many of the answers, yet they have never been asked, and when solutions are offered they are ignored. We have been told many times it's cheaper to run Centres on overtime than to employ enough staff, then we are labelled by our own Department as 'overtime rorters'. We in the front line see this Department as extremely top heavy, far to many 'chiefs' and not nearly enough 'Indians'.

Thank You.