

Submission  
No 131

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

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Telephone:**

**Date received:** 2/03/2009

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Partially Confidential

Ms Rachel Simpson  
Director,  
General Purpose Standing Committee No.3  
Parliament House  
Sydney

Dear Ms Simpson

**Re: Inquiry into Privatisation of Prisons and Prison Related Services**

I make this submission as a member of Court Escort Security Unit in a country location which has been identified as an area of the department which will be market tested. As we can see, the market testing that was carried out on Cessnock and Parklea Correctional Centre's was not comparing apples with apples. The problem being with Court Escort Security Unit there is no other comparison in this state to do a fair comparison with.

Aside from this, my personal circumstances if this privatisation were to go ahead is to relocate to an area not of my choice, but to one that the Department of Corrective Services intends to place me. To this date there has been no official announcement relating to the Court Escort Security Unit, however, staff are preparing for the worst.

I have been a Correctional Officer for 20 years, having worked and lived in Sydney, working in a Metropolitan Gaol. I spent 5 years in Sydney waiting on a extensive transfer list to a country Gaol. After years in that centre I applied and on merit won a position in the Court Escort Security Unit. I now have had the opportunity to work and live in my home town. Having this taken away creates an enormous burden on myself, my wife and 3 children.

My wife is in full time employment after extensive study and training. There is no opportunity for her to relocate in a similar job. Our children are all school aged and involved in local sporting clubs.

Are we meant to simply throw our lives into disruption and relocate to another location with no family support, which is heavily relied upon, with both parents in modern day living having to work.

The very nature of our chosen occupation can make for some very stressful times, however, this is the most stressful time for myself, my workmates and my immediate and extended family that I can remember.

Has any consideration been given for retraining and redeployment of officers into other government departments without having to totally relocate hundreds of families who would be going through equally stressful times?

If privatisation plans go ahead why should experienced staff have to relocate, resign and look for other employment, or resign and take up employment with a company on, without doubt less pay and conditions.

Why must staff lose all their entitlements from being with a government department for the majority of their working lives to retain a position in an organisation that only has interests in making profits.

Staff in country areas are severely disadvantaged from any privatisation with not only moving work location, but, moving house and family, and potential loss of partners income as well. The cost of relocating this amount of staff must be considered as an enormous cost on the government.

I thank you for this opportunity to raise some of the things that will affect me.

Yours faithfully