

Submission
No 373

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

Name: Mr Jonathan Moylan

Date received: 25/02/2009

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the privatisation of prisons in NSW. My opposition is based on human rights and economic grounds.

The government should look into the experiences of inmates detained at privatised prisons in other countries before making a decision on privatisation. We certainly do not want to have the kinds of conditions in prisons that exist in totalitarian regimes as that is not the purpose of prisons in a democracy.

If a person is held captive by the State they should not then be passed into the hands of a private corporation that has different interests (commercial rather than public).

The lessons learnt from privatising immigration detention centres in Australia should be applied to any decision on privatising prisons. There are some things that can legitimately be considered businesses, but detention is not one of them.

I have not included statistics or evidence in my submission because I believe that although these would support my case, they would not be taken into consideration as this is the kind of decision which is usually made on ideological grounds rather than sound economic or rational grounds.