

Submission
No 382

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

Organisation:

Name: Mr Norm Jones

Telephone:

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To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a very concerned citizen of New South WAles in which State I have resided in all my life. As an ex member of the New South Wales Police Force, I feel I have evidence concerning the Matter of Criminals serving their sentences in New South Wales prisons. I am an aged pensioner aged 73, and reside with my wife aged 70 at Adelong NSW.

Research of overseas prisons has disclosed cases in the USA of private prisons being run and supervised by staff who are ill-trained and have very little interest or concern over the running of the prisons system in that country, only concerned about profit.

It has been found that some unscrupulous individuals in charge of private prisons there have solicited the judiciary quite successfully to increase the classification of incarceration of some prisoners, to obtain more finances. No attempt has been made by such companies to indulge the prisoners in any form of rehabilitation by way of training, developing employment skills and assisting the prisoners to gain a legal and responsible occupation (eg no educational programs) to once again become an asset to their community, instead of being a repeat offender and wasting their lives in prison. Unlike government run prisons, the like of which exists in all states of Australia.

Here the prisoners enjoy and education based on University standards, and some enjoy Doctorates and other higher and useful education, so distant, and distinct from prisons run by private companies.

Again here in Australia recently in Long Bay a prisoner walked out of that place simply by going through a boom gate that was supposedly being guarded by a member of a private security company.

At Silverwater Complex recently a privately run security company was supposedly in charge of perimeter patrols of security, instead, the private security officer was found to have left the complex and was sighted shopping in a local shopping centre.

These privately run prisons due to the poor supervisory skills or none at all, engender a mentality that it is only a job, do your 38 hours a week and go home. This attitude which is in epidemic proportions in these institutions that are privately run cannot compare in any way with those men and women who are employed by the Government run institutions.

All money gained by these private companies end up overseas to the detriment of all state revenues in Australia. They cut staff numbers back to such a degree as to produce unsafe work practices which should not be allowed to exist. They have also created unnecessarily a higher degree of danger on prisoners which allows for a falsely higher cost to the state. This in my opinion is bordering on FRAUD.

Finally, as an aged pensioner I feel my security is being placed in jeopardy when the prisoners are released after doing their time incarcerated for similar offences many times before, with no help being given to their rehabilitation.

Please retain the system without incurring the contracting out to these private companies. They have failed in the past and will continue to do so. Surely the safety of all citizens who are the victims of this inept exercise in the long term should be considered also.

Yours Sincerely
Norm Jones