

Submission
No 360

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 25/02/2009

Partially Confidential

Inquiry into the Privatisation of Prisons and other Prison Related Services

To the Committee Members

I have been a Prison Officer for 17 years now and have worked in many Centres across the Metropolitan area. Including Parklea Correctional Centre. I have made a career with the Department and the thought that they now wish to privatise these Centres and services has not only shocked me, it has also invoked a fear in me that I have never before felt.

Fear for my family, that I may go to work one day and not return due to corners being cut and reduction in services.

Fear for my wife (also a Prison Officer), not knowing if she will be safe, or if she will return home to our daughter.

Fear for my family and friends that they may one day get the "bad" news.

Fear for the community, that due to cuts in resources and services, I may not be able to prevent an escape from happening that a convicted inmate may escape and cause harm to others.

Fear for the future of NSW, that the global corporations will take over and destroy the very being of our Australia.

I am not alone in these fears and I know that most won't let on, but I see it in the faces of my colleagues, the sheer desperation and looks of defeat. I feel for them and I don't know how to help them.

I am fortunate in writing to you after hearing the first day of evidence at the inquiry and I believe the statements made by Ron Woodham to be absolutely ludicrous.

The Department told you of the costs to keep an inmate in custody, comparing state run facilities to Junee. What they failed to mention was the additional costs such as transport provided by NSW Corrective Services to move Junee inmates, the costs absorbed by NSW DCS to provide training to Junee staff, the fact that Junee is a medium security facility compared to Parklea which is a maximum security centre.

In my opinion this just shows that there is no cost saving in privatising prisons, the only cost saving is to the Corporate Directors who skim from the money saved on cost cutting and wages. The costs will still be borne by the taxpayers of this state.

Mr Woodham has stated he can't run this Department, he and his Managers can't control the staff. I think it's time to start looking for another Commissioner with the abilities and management skills to manage.

Mr Woodham has done nothing but show his spiteful nature and stated, he doesn't have a problem with the union, just the members. That statement says a lot.

In closing I would just like to add, we as Prison Officers have never stopped change, we have never stopped reforms that benefit the stakeholders, all we have ever wanted was to negotiate and resolve issues relating to staff safety.

It appears though that the funds are available for Senior Management to employ a Yoga teacher for the auxiliary staff working in Henry Deane Building, but cannot provide enough funds so that Correctional Centres can be staffed safely and have to run on overtime.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my point of view.