

**Submission
No 8**

**INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF
CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

Name: Mrs Carol Ordish

Date received: 30/09/2012

30th September 2012

Inquiry into the closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW facilities

Parliament House

Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

To the Committee

As a member of the City of Grafton I believe that the speed and process used to close Grafton Gaol lacked responsible management and had taken a dictatorial approach giving no opportunity to anyone to make suggestions as to how this could be done without impacting, commercially and on the community as a whole.

Care and concern was denied to:

- Inmates of the Gaol
- Inmates families
- Employees
- Organizations giving assistance to inmates and families
- Associated businesses
- Schools
- General public

A better approach would have been to assess the financial and logistic difficulties to be faced by the department by shifting inmates especially the indigenous inmates. This is an area of deep concern, in that, the aboriginal nations residing here are not the same aboriginal nations residing where the inmates were sent. As families move to be close to their incarcerated family members further difficulties will arise as those from one nation move into another nation's territory. The effects could be catastrophic on the inmate, their families and the community to where they have had to go to be near the Gaol.

Employees have also suffered, financially and emotionally. People with house loans were affected as some have to sell and leave to find work.

Organizations and associated businesses no longer have the framework in place to keep effectively functioning.

Schools have lost quite a few students and this will impact many ways on the schools with funding and teachers.

The general public ultimately are affected as the Gaol has been such a central, pivotal part of Grafton and played quite a large part in community life.

Yours Faithfully

Carol Ordish