

Submission
No 244

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

Name: Revd Dr Andrew Thompson

Date received: 26/02/2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to express my concern that in any process of privatisation the NSW prison system may become less transparent in its accountability to government, to the public and to the media.

I am concerned, in the custodial administration of justice in NSW, with three vital principles:

1. That the process of administering justice should always aim at being restorative - for both the victims and the perpetrators of crimes.

Since the primary focus of your enquiry is with prisons, this means that if the justice system requires that a custodial sentence be given then that sentence should be served in such a way that primarily its aim is not primarily punishment but rehabilitation.

2. That individual inmates have a means of informing those outside the prison system of any injustice within their prison, that is, access to some official visitor who have unfettered freedom to report prison injustices to responsible persons both within and outside the prison system.

3. That the prison/justice system is transparent enough to allow accountability to and open enquiry from government, the media and the public.

May I respectfully submit that in any review of the NSW prison system, and in any movement towards privatisation of prisons there be inclusions in the performance benchmarks reflecting these three principles.

Should you so wish I would be pleased to address your enquiry in person.

Yours faithfully,

(Rev. Dr) Andrew Thompson