

Submission  
No 117

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

**Name:** Mrs Lynise O'Donnell

**Date received:** 27/02/2009

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### Parliamentary Enquiry Submission

This statement is tendered in accordance with the **Terms of Reference**; Point 7 any other relevant materials.

I am the wife of a Senior Correctional Officer at Cessnock Correctional Centre.

I am concerned about the privatisation of Cessnock Correctional Centre on many levels. The NSW Department of Corrective Services have not been transparent in any of their dealings with the frontline officers who are the ones most greatly affected. On February 16<sup>th</sup> this year my husband and I met with a HR representative at the Centre. This representative has been placed at Cessnock indefinitely to assist officers in organising their options. The whole activity was a pointless exercise surely set up by the Department so that they could say that they had done all they could to assist their officers. The activity was pointless in that the HR rep had no definitive answers for us. The information that we have been given is that the privatisation of Cessnock ***is a done deal and is irreversible***. Our options are to put in a preference to work with the private contractor (where my husband would have to resign from the Department and forego any of his entitlements), accept a voluntary redundancy or to put in preferences to other Correctional Centres within NSW. We were advised by the HR rep that the redeployed officers from Parklea would account for most of the frontline vacancies in the Sydney Metro area. However, if we were to go to a country area there was no guarantee that that Centre would not be earmarked for privatisation in the future.

If we were to go to the Sydney Metro area (or anywhere else other than the Hunter area for that matter) my husband and I lose our complete family network and support which was the whole reason for relocating to Cessnock in the first place. We would face record high rental prices in a market where the demand for properties far outweighs the properties available. It would be a complete lifestyle change from the one that we had chosen for ourselves and our family.

For those officers who gain a position at the new Nowra centre (yet to be opened) they will in all likelihood (according to the HR rep) be "parked" at the Goulburn centre until Nowra opens. This would result in yet more disruption to the officers and their families.

Whilst the Department offers a Transferred Officers Package for all displaced officers, the costs firstly have to be incurred by the officers and their families. A claim is then put in for processing with all the receipts and supporting documentation. In our recent relocation from Sydney to Newcastle ***it took 8 weeks to be reimbursed***. Nor does the Department reimburse any of the GST components incurred in your expenses. Families will be left out of pocket. Relocation will cause financial hardship to families who can least afford it.

Moving house, financial hardship and job insecurity/fear of losing job all rank in the top 10 of the most stressful lifetime events that can be experienced. *What is or will the Department do to help Officers and their families through these difficulties?*

The privatisation of Cessnock Correctional Centre along with the announcement this week of *Pacific Brands* closing at Cessnock will have a devastating effect on this close knit community.

There has been no transparency by the Department on how the decision to privatise Cessnock has come about, nor any consultation taken place with the frontline officers in an attempt to rectify the issues stated by the Department as the reasons Cessnock has been targeted. All issues can be directly attributed to poor management and the mismanagement of senior executives.

A complete audit needs to be conducted on the department as a whole to identify where inefficiencies exist. A great place to start would be the Henry Deane Building. Why does the Department need so many non-custodial managers? States such as Victoria and Queensland operate with significantly less Senior Executive salary positions. Appendix 1 attached identifies Senior Executive salary positions which currently exist, these are positions that pay above \$75,000 per year, those highlighted in yellow exceed \$100,000 per year. Mr Woodham apparently earns in the vicinity of \$390,000 which I am told is more than what Mr Rees earns. Why do our taxpayer dollars pay for such an incompetent commissioner? The issues that exist have come into being through mismanagement and consistent and ongoing mismanagement at that. A commissioner of any other department would have been forced out and a new one appointed if they had the track record of Mr Woodham.

Mr Woodham has complained about officer taking advantage of overtime, yet when a ban was placed on overtime by officers in October 2008 the Department took them to the Industrial Relations Commission. The Department told Justice Marks that they could not operate without overtime and the officers were ordered back to work.

One has to wonder at the politics going on affecting these decisions and playing with people's lives. Mr Hatzistergos at the time of the overtime bans was the Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Industrial Relations as well as Attorney General. The PSA had no chance of getting a fair and objective outcome for its members when this huge conflict of interest exists.

For your consideration,

Lynise O'Donnell

# COMMISSIONER

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS X 2 ASST COMMISSIONERS X 5 CHIEF SUPERINTENDENTS X 2

Human Resources	Asset Management	IC & T	Legal	Finance	Commissioners Office	Probity and Performance	OS & P
Director	Executive Director	Executive Director	Executive Director	Executive Director	Asst Commissioner	Asst Commissioner	Asst Commissioner
Superintendent	Director	Director	Director	Director	Director Rosters	Director Audit	Director Devel
Manager	Asset Manager	Clerk 9/10	Senior Legal	Clerk 11/12	Superintendent	Clerk 9/10	Clerk 9/10
Team Leader	Project Director	Technology Leader	Senior Legal	Manager Accountant		Director Inspectorate	Director OS & P
Senior H/R	Logistics Manager	Manager	Senior Legal	Director Budget		Director Investigate	Regional Manager
Clerk 9/10	Team Leader	Technology Leader	Executive Officer	Manager		Executive Director A	Regional Manager
Manager HRIS	Procure Manager	Project Manager	Director I.R	Senior Accountant		Director Learn	Regional Manager
Manager ODE	Business Manager	Manager OIMS	Senior I.R	Team Leader		Director Academic	Principle
Manager PP&S	Manager Standards	Manager BIMS	Clerk 9/10	Manager		Manager Internat	Deputy Principle
Manager Payroll		Director Planning	Manager Health	Team Leader		Senior Manager	Manager Assess
Manager Payroll		Project Manager	Manager Injury	Senior Accounts		Manager ES & Qua	Director Res/Just
Manager Payroll		Assistant Director	Manager Support	Senior Accounts		General manager	Director Off Pol
Senior Manager		Director Info Manage	Manager I. M	Senior Accounts		Manager Library	Asst Director
Senior Manager		Manager				Manager Op Train	Manager
Manager		Archive Manager				Manager Pro Devel	Director IC & CM
Team Leader		Manager Ops					Assist Director
Ass Supt		Manager Web					Project Director C/P
							Manager
							Manager
							Manager
							Manager
							Manager
							Manager

Non-Operational Managers within the Department of Corrective Services

How has the Way Forward affect them??

All above on more than 75K a year

These on more than 100K a year