

Submission
No 439

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 2/03/2009

Partially Confidential

The Director
General Purpose standing committee No 3
Parliament House
Macquarie street
Sydney,NSW.2000

SUBMISSION TO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON RELATED
ACTIVITY

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the NSW's privatisation of Cessnock and Parklea Gaols and believe that the administration of criminal justice must stay in public hands. I spent 10 years working in the prisons as a nurse including Cessnock and believe the standard of care is overall very high, the only way that that running costs can be reduced is to cut care for the inmates. Surely the aim of 'corrective services' should be to increase the chances of rehabilitation back into society, this can only be achieved by providing high quality programmes both in prison and after release rather than focusing on the bottom dollar. If the labour government wish to reign in the cost of the prisons they would be better served to look at the top heavy upper echelons of the department rather than compromising the care and safety of both inmates and staff.

Victorian studies of private prisons show not only a far higher rate of self-harm and suicide than in public run prisons but also a far higher rate of complaints (see the Victorian Ombudsman report, 2008). The poor management of Deerpark women's Prison by one of the companies tendering for the contracts for Cessnock and Parklea resulted in the Victorian government resuming control of Deerpark, do we want a similar situation in NSW?

To date there has not been a comprehensive study comparing Junees prison to public prisons in NSW and I believe to proceed with further privatisation at this point would be unwise until a full understanding of the effect of privatisation can be ascertained.

Privatisation will also impact on the economy of Cessnock through the loss of jobs at a time that the community can ill afford it. I urge you to find against the privatisation of Cessnock and Parklea prisons.