

Submission
No 141

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

Organisation:

Name: Name suppressed

Telephone:

Date received: 27/02/2009

Partially Confidential

27th February, 2009

Dear Sir/ma'am

I am 40 years old and have worked for the department for the last 20 years basically half of my life, I currently work at Parklea Correctional Centre and I am a single father of two young daughters. I live in Sydney's west and travel to and from Parklea by Motor Vehicle taking about 25 minutes.

As a result of the privatisation announcement my world has been turned upside down with uncertainty and stress not knowing what to do, I cant afford to work for the private contractors and cant be certain that I would be moved to the nearest locations to my residence (Emu Plains or John Moroney). At this stage I am able to rely upon family and friends to drop/pick and care for my children after school, if I was to be moved to a Centre further away I would have to pay for after school care not to mention the extra time away from my family.

I became a Prison Officer not because I just happened along the advertisement but my brother and uncle were officers and I chose to make a career form the Corrective services hence I know nothing else, this is what I do and I take great pride in knowing that I am a professionally trained Officer not a Security guard who one day is standing at the front of a bank then the next I am working in a Maximum Security centre protecting the Public from Murderers and rapists etc, All you have to do is look at the stats for Junee and see how many assaults on inmates/staff there are compared to Public run Centres such as Parklea with over 800 inmates.

As far as Overtime rorting goes that is a joke, we don't ask for overtime, the overtime exists because of the understaffing of the Centre which is managements fault not ours; also if the department wants to run more economically they need to look at the top were we have an excess of Executive officers in head Office etc instead of hitting the coal face Staff who actually have face to face contact with the Inmates who literally risk their lives daily. I was personally offended by Ron Woodhams comments regarding the escape where he comments the Officers were watching cricket, yesterday(Thursday) I was driving home in uniform and at a set of traffic lights a member of the public yelled out and asked me for the cricket score (true story I don't lie), that comment even if retracted has done damage to our professionalism and the majority of the public are probably saying no wonder there going private. Does the department feel they need to lie to gain public support???

Since the gaol opened in 1983 there has been only two escapes from the main Centre and that was brought up in the inquiry, 2 escapes in over 25 years I believe that to be a impeccable record considering the calibre of inmates that this Centre has housed, nothing is said about the escape attempts that these so called bad Corrective services Officers have diligently prevented???

As the PSA says on their website:

"To go out there and demonise the workforce the way that the commissioner has is absolutely ridiculous," he said.

"When you think that he's been managing that system and he's the one in control of budgets and the overtime"

I hope sanity prevails

Submitted for your information