

Submission
No 287

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 24/02/2009

Partially Confidential

My Submission to this Parliamentary Enquiry outlines some of the affects that I believe the Privatisation of Cessnock Correctional Centre will have on my family members.

I believe that the only way that a private company can make money from a Correctional Centre is by increasing the number of inmates that they are getting paid to house and decreasing the number of Officers and services offered to the inmates held within the centre.

This also increases the risk of injuries to both inmates and Officers that work at the centre. During my 18 years as a Correctional Officer I personally have been injured by inmates several times and with the increase in danger that I am sure will occur could not bring myself to work for a private company that operates Correctional Centres.

Mr Woodham is clutching at straws in his attempt to privatise Cessnock with his recent comments about events that occurred over 15 years ago. The attack on both Cessnock and Parklea Correctional Centres is personal as both these centres have kept the safety within these centres as high as possible and Cessnock has continually received praise for both safety and budget management.

This is the second time that I have been threatened with loss of my employment as I was moved from the now Tourist attraction that was Maitland Correctional Centre.

My immediate family consists of my wife and two teenage sons, we live in a house that was personally built by myself and my family approximately 5 years ago. We as a family have decided as a family that we will not move from this house or the area.

The main reasons for this are.

1. My wife has her own career and has been employed with the same company for over 20 years.
2. My eldest son has just won a place and been accepted at The University of Newcastle.
3. My youngest son is in his last years at school and in this competitive environment I do not wish to upset his current achievements at school.
4. My wife and I both have elderly parents, who are not in the best of health (my father has recently had heart valve replacement) and require us to be close for any assistance that is needed.
5. I am currently 50 minutes travel from Cessnock, but travel to any other centre would be a minimum of 2 hours travel each way thus making an 8 hour shift into a twelve hour shift with an increased risk of driver fatigue and motor vehicle accidents.
6. Both children have jobs that they enjoy and have excellent work ethics.

Please consider the future of the Officers, their families and also the inmates of Cessnock Correctional Centre by either blocking or overturning the proposed privatisation so that we can all get on with our lives and careers and the proper care and rehabilitation of the inmates that pass through the centre.

I close my submission with a quote from my wife,

" I would rather my husband be looking for another job than working in an unsafe, overcrowded prison."

Thank You