

Submission
No 79

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24/02/2009

Partially Confidential

I submit that all prisons should be kept in the public hands and not be privatised as private companies should not be able to profit from criminal activities. I am a serving prison officer of nearly 10 years and I take my job extremely seriously. Working in the conditions that we do, putting up with the abuse, threats of violence against not only ourselves but also our families I think that we deserve to be treated better. All industries need to save money in these harsh times but it should not be at the expense of officer safety. Why not trim some money from the top in head office or from the inmates themselves who seem to get what ever they want. By bringing in private security companies you may be employing people who have a criminal record, and these people are to be trusted with looking after dangerous criminals. Corrective services at present also look after all court locations as well as 24 hour cell complexes, the transporting of inmates to and from court as well as from jail to jail. All these duties are carried out in a very professional manner with a minimum of fuss by extremely professional staff. It is my opinion that a private company would be unable to provide these duties anywhere near the level that we presently do. This has also been the opinion of the many police officers and court staff I have spoken to.