Submission No 374

INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON-RELATED SERVICES

Name:Ms Lynn BondDate received:25/02/2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter as a concerned Mother and Citizen to express my vehement objection to the Privatization of our Prisons

When any company or organization goes private the infrastructure always deteriorates, Example, the privatization of Victoria's electrical services is a clear indication that it simply will not work. Priority always goes to the shareholders as they only care about the dollar value of the company not the service they provide to the community.

You can obtain a private security license in 2 days and I don't believe these inadequately trained officers have the experience to deal with situations that arise in our prisons, e.g. escapes, riots, drugs and difficult inmates.

A qualified Corrective Services Officer spends 3 months at the Academy training and then gains more valuable experience on the job. Last but by no means least I am concerned about the eventual job loss of the many men that have made a career of being a Corrective Services Officer and are dedicated to their job and the safety of their comrades, the community and the inmates. I say eventual because once they privatize these two said prisons than there is no stopping the continual sell off of these fundamental government jobs.

As the mother of one such officer I implore you to reconsider the proposed changes to our prison system. We must keep them public not private.

Yours Sincerely Lynn Bond