

Submission
No 300

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 01/03/2009

Partially Confidential

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON RELATED SERVICES IN NSW

01 March 2009

Dear Members

I thank the committee for an opportunity to provide a submission into the Privatisation of Prisons and Prison related services in NSW.

I wish to express my opposition to the privatisation of Prisons and Prison related services for the following reasons.

- Private enterprise should not be permitted to profit from crime.
- Private operators of Prisons have no incentive to rehabilitate offenders as recidivism leads to greater inmate numbers this equates to greater profit.
- Private companies will operate with less frontline staff in Correctional Centres that have been designed for "sight and sound" staffing practices, this will threaten the safety of staff, inmates and the general community as less supervision will ultimately lead to greater assault and escape rates.
- Private companies are answerable to shareholders and will gouge extra profits by minimising expenditure in areas such as staffing levels, staff training, inmate educational programs, drug and alcohol programs and inmate welfare.
- Privatisation of Prisons has been trialed and implemented interstate and overseas with unsatisfactory results, in fact many governments have either taken control or are in the process of taking control of Prisons from private operators that have failed to meet contractual obligations.

In short I do not believe that it is worth putting the lives of staff, inmates and the community at risk for a possible saving of \$16 million. This saving could be funded by eliminating some of the practices that management employ which create a vast amount of overtime, such as housing inmates in court cells for days on end, the understaffing of these centres and filling of positions using overtime depending on inmate numbers. These practices may be acceptable in extreme or one off situations however, if a centre requires

overtime shifts to be filled on a daily basis for months on end, this is poor management and shows that staffing profiles need addressing.

I believe that consultation between the management and staff of NSW Prisons that result in agreeable workplace reforms would produce a more beneficial outcome for the people of NSW, than any gains that privatisation may bring.

I respectfully submit my submission for your consideration.