

**INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF
CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 8/11/2012

Partially Confidential

The Director
Select Committee on the Closure or Downsizing of Corrective Services
NSW Facilities Parliament

06/11/2012

Dear Committee Members,

Consultation relating to the downsizing

There was no prior warning from management that Grafton Gaol was to undergo downsizing to a Transitional Centre. This devastating news of job losses was first delivered by a media release and confirmed by local management shortly after. The impact on staff was devastating to witness. Total bewilderment and despair over unforeseen job losses, wives/husbands and families facing separation, children facing removal from their schools and friends, and increased financial hardship is but to name just a few of the type of hardships the employees faced due to being unknowing and thus unprepared for a change of work conditions of this magnitude.

Community Impact

The local Clarence valley, in particular Grafton, benefited immensely from the hundred plus staff (and families) employed at Grafton Correctional Centre. Sales in housing and accommodation, additional land rate contributions, increased students to schools and bus companies, small family food and clothing businesses, petrol stations, mechanical workshops, small business contractors, supermarkets, recreational fishing / sporting clubs, and malls, etc. were beneficiaries of the staff wages who were employed at Grafton Correctional Centre.

The overall financial loss to the Grafton and Clarence Valley community has been without doubt very significant. All the above businesses and those not mentioned employ staff to accommodate their increase in customer driven profits. At the least it allows for expansions and increased spending into other local businesses. Grafton could and still cannot afford the loss of Grafton Correctional Centre.

Yours faithfully,