

INQUIRY INTO PARKLEA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE AND OTHER OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Organisation: Mt Druitt / Police Citizens Youth Club

Date received: 17 January 2018



January 6, 2018

To

The Parliamentary Inquiry into
Parklea Correctional Centre

I am currently a member of the Community Consultative Committee at Parklea Correctional Centre and represent Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) formerly as President of Blacktown PCYC and now primarily through Mt Druitt PCYC organizing their PCYC Western Sydney Rugby League I also operate Africa United Rugby League Inc , PCYC focuses on assisting the young people of our community and empowering young people to reduce crime by and against young people through youth programs.

I have been able to attend many of the various events held at the Parklea centre from Anzac Day ceremonies with local community dignitaries to local surrounding community members to cultural days and Naidoc week events for inmates.

GEO are a long time partner with Blacktown PCYC supporting our young members and families for 8 years in Rugby League assisting identified talented players with tuition and uniforms to attend the Hills Sports High School Talented Sports Person program also supporting our many African refugee families at the time with registration fees to be able to participate in sport and with the help of GEO we were able to form an African Rugby League club creating pathways for many young African people to represent their heritage.

GEO were able to provide much needed assistance with kitchen and office refurbishment in the local Blacktown PCYC building that was in need of repair. This led to more renovations at more locations and provided inmates at the centre with more work to further enhance their trade skills and qualifications through the GEO Industries programs and the workmanship skills are first class.

PCYC host an annual Nations of Origin Indigenous youth tournament the week following Naidoc that we here at Blacktown send 2 teams of under 16 boys and 2 teams of under 16 girls a total of 48 young people and 12 coaching staff representing the Darug Nation the costs for food , accommodation and travel for the 3 days and 2 nights is quite expensive and through The GEO Group and the inmates at Parklea raffles and Chocolate drives are undertaken to make a contribution toward helping these young people participate in this important cultural event.

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GEO provide breakfasts for many school children who attended a 7am 2 day a week rugby league program I am involved with at Seven Hills High School , GEO's provision of breakfasts has improved student attendance and student behavior.

A young African man Obed Karwhin, an African Refugee who with the assistance of myself through PCYC and the partnership with GEO was able to reach high levels in rugby league at Wests Tigers in under 20's then North Sydney in NSW Cup and represent his heritage through Africa United , he was also able to gain employment with the NRL In League In Harmony school program as a mentor to school students , The GEO Group at Parklea had a major contribution to this young mans future.

The GEO Group have provided so much to the community through their in house industries and contributions to community groups and are actively involved in many programs to assist community.

Without the support of the GEO Group a lot of young people in our local community would not have access to the better education opportunities through scholarships or the opportunity to participate in their chosen sport that this partnership has provided.

I have been able to attend many of the various events held at the Parklea centre from Anzac Day ceremonies with local community dignitaries to local surrounding community members to cultural days and Naidoc week events for inmates.

The wonderful work and contributions the GEO Group make at the Parklea centre and in the community goes unnoticed for the most part , appreciated by those directly benefiting from the many partnerships that have been formed.

Sincerely

Stephen Warwick
PCYC Western Sydney Rugby League

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