

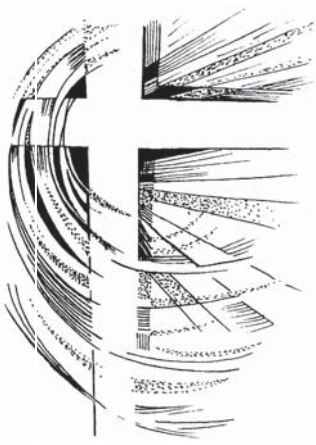
**Submission  
No 4**

## **INQUIRY INTO PARKLEA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE AND OTHER OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

**Name:** Mr Clayton Brooke  
Prison Chaplain, Parklea Correctional Centre

**Date received:** 31 January 2018

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## CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

Parklea Correctional Centre  
PO Box 6148, BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

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*25th January 2018*

To Whom It May Concern,

Over the past seven years I have been employed as a Prison Chaplain at two gaols; four and a half years at Kariiong Correctional Centre and the last two and a half years at Parklea Correctional Centre. In relation to my duties conducted within Parklea Correctional Centre, which included the holding of weekly religious services, Pastoral Care one on one consultations in and out of the yards and various other programs, I would make the following comments.

At no time have I felt my life was in any type of danger in my years of Service at Parklea. I have never had an incident arise in relation to or in the immediate vicinity of those duties I have partaken. The thorough safety and security processes in place at Parklea has had a part to play in this fact.

The strongest benefit to the community that Parklea CC as a private gaol has over a Government run Corrective Services gaol is this: The commitment to run programs is a lot higher. In a Government run gaol, what I and other chaplains have experienced is a higher ratio of 'Lock-downs.' Chapel Services and other beneficial offence related issue addressing programs can not be operated when there is a 'Lock-down.' I have a volunteer minister who helps the chaplaincy team and he has a fear it will revert back to the department because he remembered when Parklea was a Government run gaol and it seemed to him, it was a 'lock-down' every second week. Hence the effort to attend was a waste of his time. He has stated that since it has been privatised the lock-downs have been minimal and the weekly services he attends and help run can be trusted to be on.

As a chaplain our role is often misunderstood by officers. Our views on the pathway to an inmates rehabilitation is seen many times in direct conflict to an officers beliefs on how an inmate can become a law abiding citizen. As a generalisation I will say that despite these differences in beliefs, the officers have been helpful and conducted their duty at the highest

level. What I have noticed at Parklea is there does seem to be a higher percentage of these officers that are more than willing to help and go the extra mile. This maybe because of added pressure to do programs, I'm not sure but it is an observation I have noticed. I know it is not because I am more fond of the staff at Parklea because I would say I made better friends with my time in the government correctional centre I worked in.

In conclusion, in relation to conducting programs and chaplaincy; Parklea Correctional Centre has been conducive to facilitate the need to address offence related issues of inmates, in an environment I have felt safe in.

Respectfully,

Clayton Brooke  
*Parklea Correctional Centre*  
*Chaplain*