

Submission
No 77

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 23/02/2009

Partially Confidential

Sir/madam

I would like to state that I am a correctional officer within NSW corrections and have been for ten years.

In my time as an officer i have seen this Department change dramatically in the service it provides to the inmates and to the staff.

The claims made by this department in relation to the Privatisation of some services are false and misleading. It has long been common knowledge that the Commissioner has not wanted union involvement in gaols as it hinders his ability to run the system how he wants. I believe that we as union members have the right to have a say in the way we perform our duties, after all we are the ones who do the frontline work.

As shown in other states in Australia privatisation has failed within the gaol system and whilst the Commissioner states that Junee is an example that it works he does not state how much the Department pays per annum to Junee , Transporting of inmates being one example ,that is the Department does all of the transporting of Junee inmates within NSW.

We as officers build an understanding of trust and a form of trust with inmates, i believe that that will be seriously undermined by a private company who's main objective will be to save money and that will mean less staff and services. in my opinion the ultimate outcome will be a rise in gaol offences, staff being assaulted, escapes and items being introduced into centres i.e. drugs ,phones etc..

I am no expert on the running of a private gaol but having the experience i have had within what is the states toughest gaol i believe gives me the right to state my serious concerns on the privatisation of these services. Especially having worked the courts and escort units which requires the officers to be of the highest professional caliber, which will be lost if privatised as will the professionalism within the two correctional centres in question.

I thank you for your time and sincerely hope you consider what i believe to be the seriousness of this decision that has been made by the Commissioner and The Minister For Corrective Services.