

Prison Privatisation Survey Results

PSA members working in the Department of Corrections were surveyed in May 2009 on their views on privatisation of prisons. The results of the survey are presented below. Specific comments made by respondents are attached.

Background Information

Of those who responded, 52% were male and 48% were female, 64% were over 45 with 22% over 55 and just under 10% under 35. 65% were NZ European/Pakeha, 23% were Maori, 4% Pasifika, 4% other European and 4% other ethnicities.

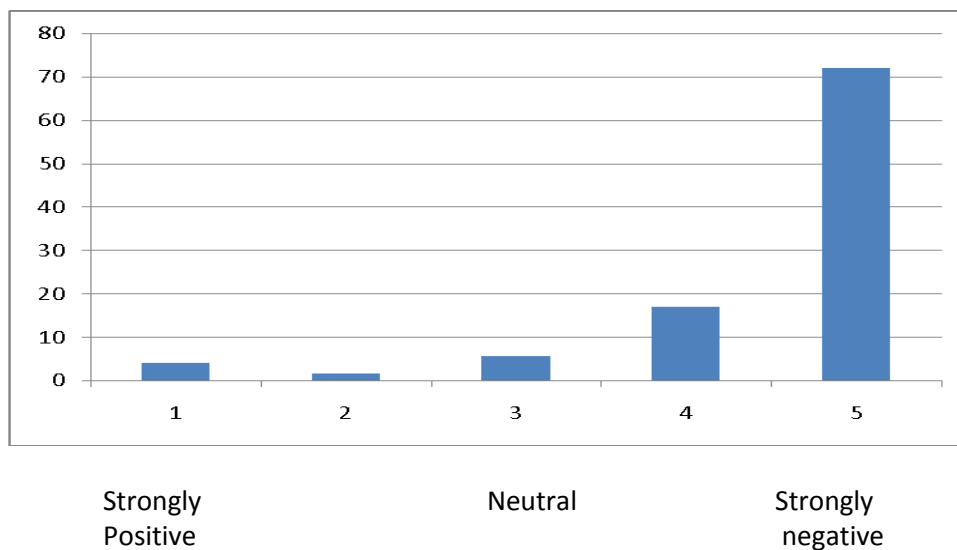
16% of respondents had over 20 years' service with the Department, 34% had between 10 and 20 years, 22% had between 5 and 9 year's service, 19% between 3 and 5 year's and 9% had less than 2 year's service.

5.4% of respondents have previously worked in a privately owned or managed prison.

17.7% have previously worked in a privately owned or managed security firm.

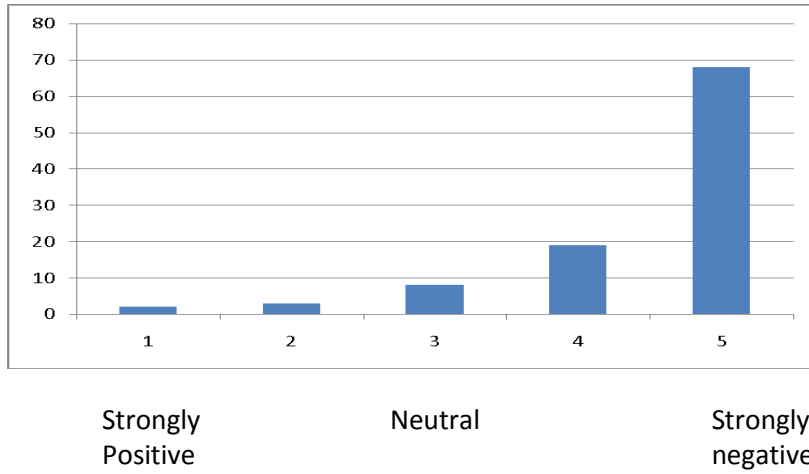
Prison privatisation

1. Overall view of the possibility of prisons being privatised

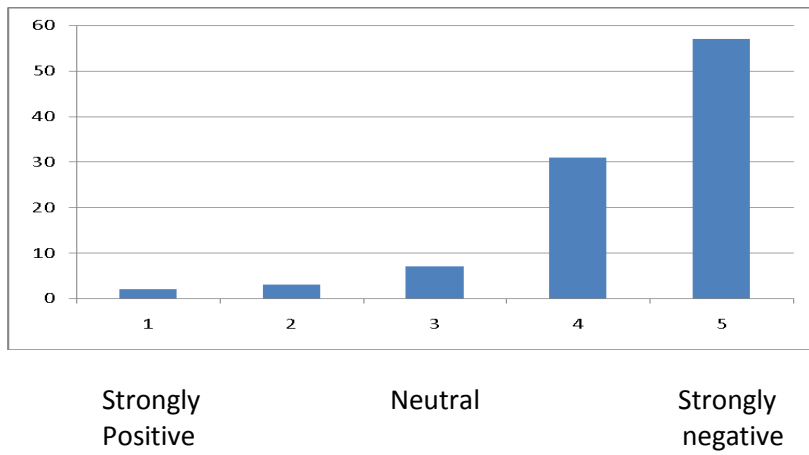


Respondents' view of the effect of privatisation of prison management on:

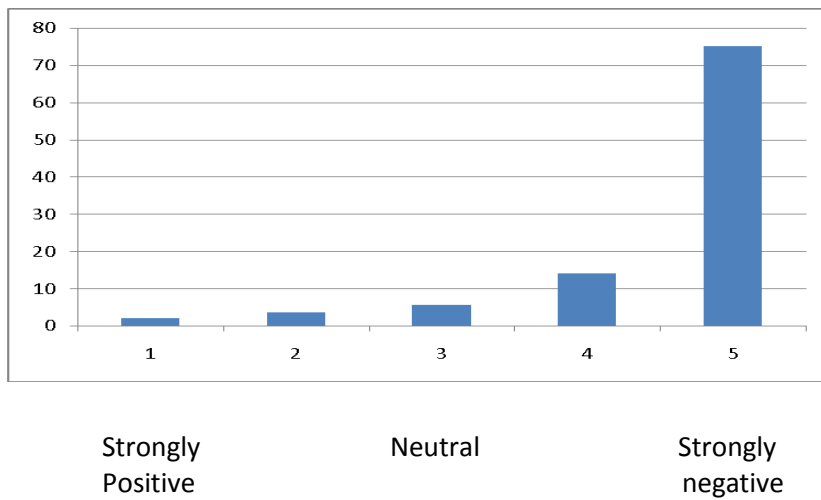
Staff safety



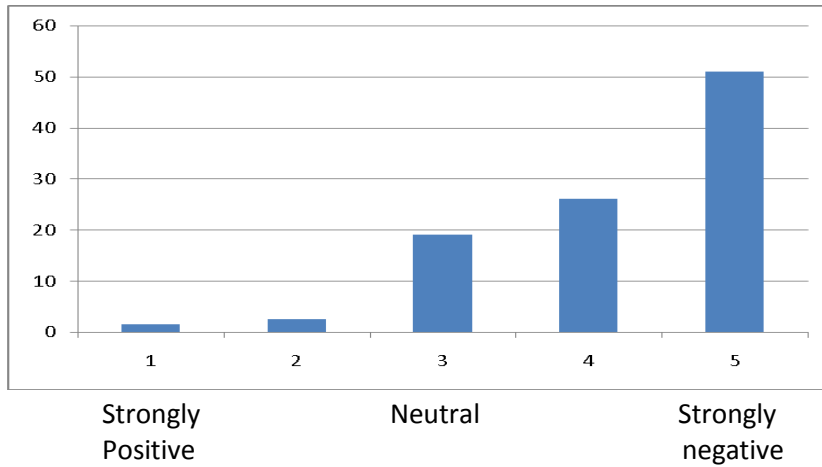
Pay and terms and conditions



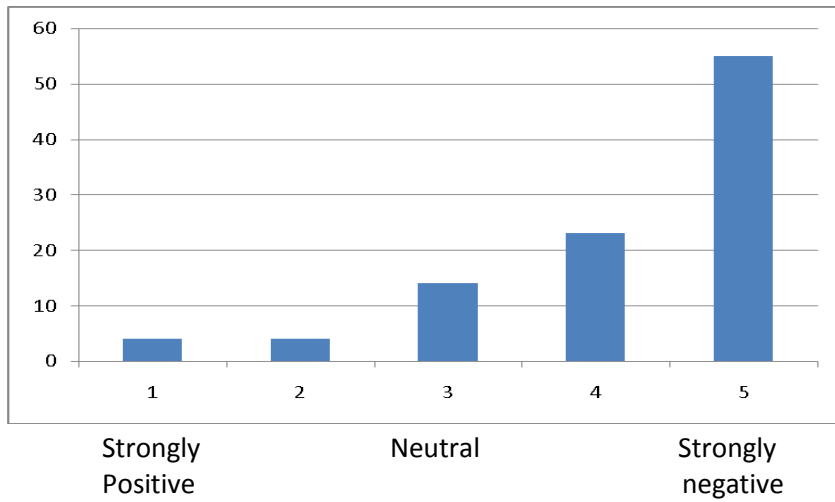
Staff turnover



Enjoyment of your job



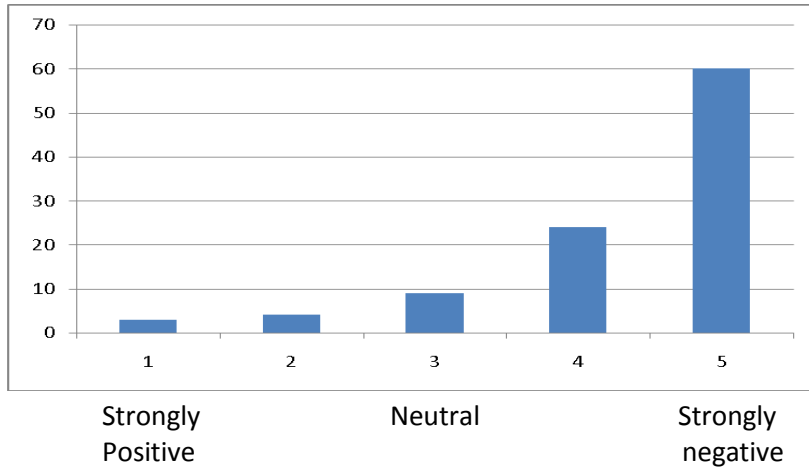
Cost of prisons to the taxpayer



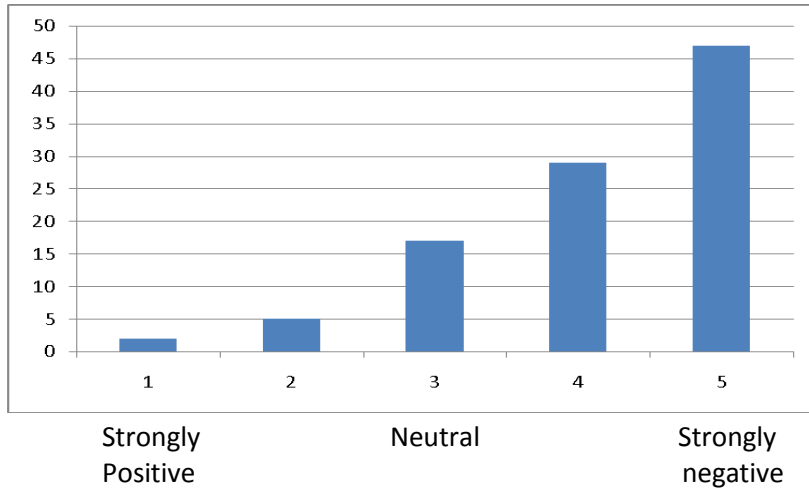
Performance of prisons



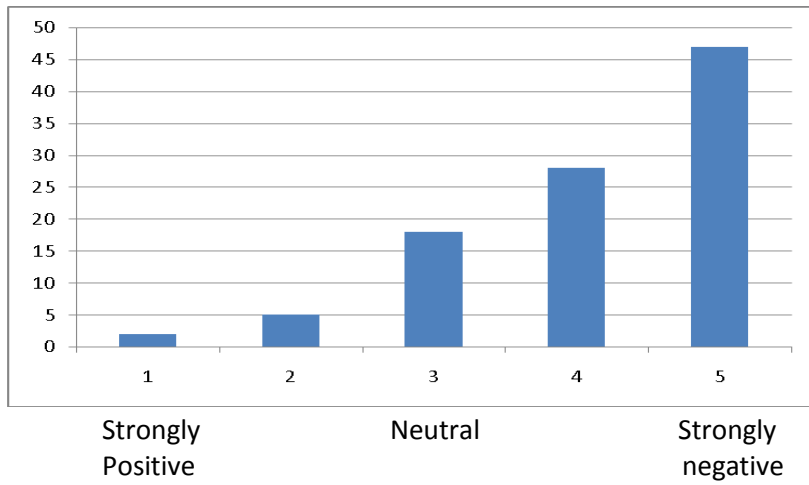
Accountability of prisons to the public



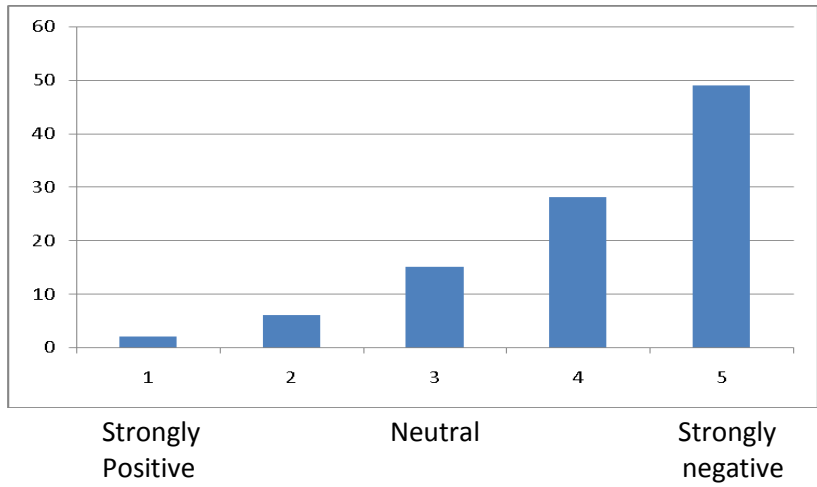
Quality of prison management



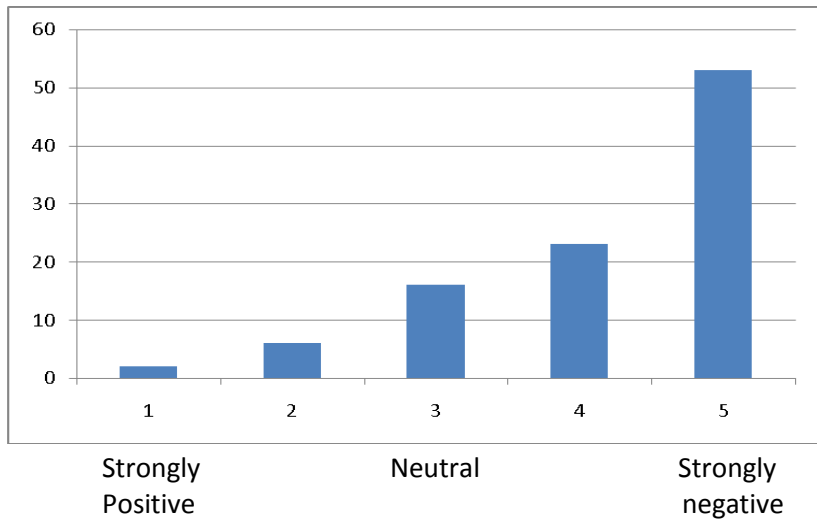
Public safety



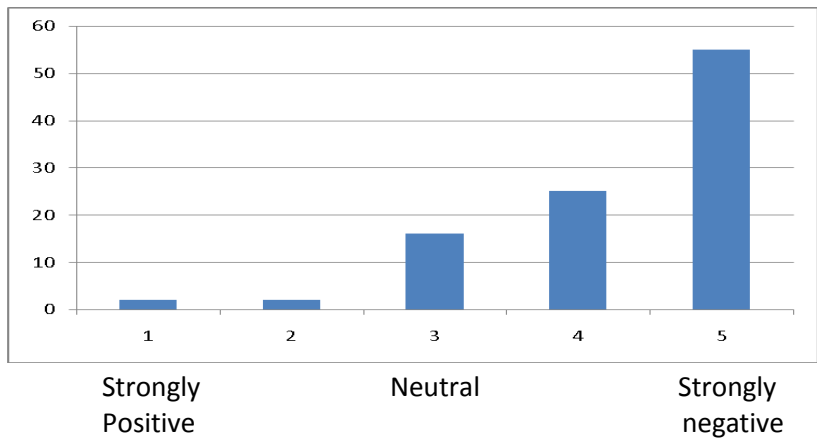
Ability of the prison service to be innovative



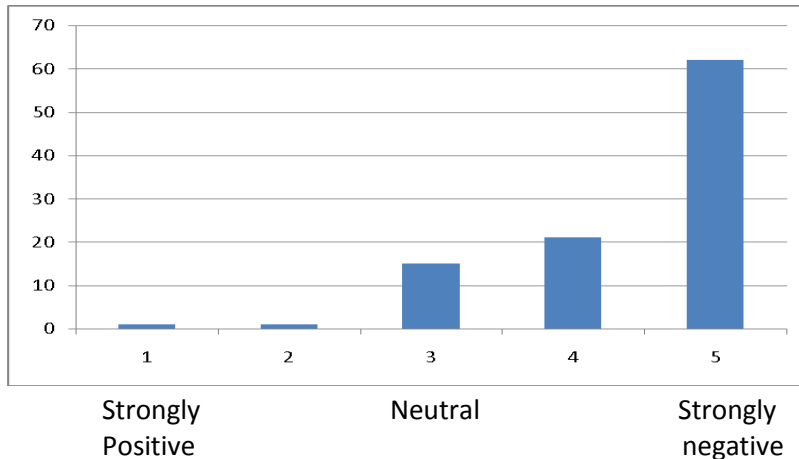
Ability of the prison service to respond to the needs of particular groups of inmates, e.g. Maori



Prison culture



Integration with the rest of the criminal justice system



Respondents' comments

- Why go down the same road as other countries who have found that in the long run, private Prisons do not work and cost the public more. Condition will change for the worker in whatever area they work. It will be like turning the clock back. Worker rights will be put aside all for the sake of making a profit. Prisoners will also lose out and because of this the environment we work in will become more dangerous. No doubt the new government have already been in talks with certain company's well before they were put in power. I worked for a private company in the UK and surprise, surprise; you can guess who had money interest in the business.
- This legislation, although not totally unexpected of the current Government, I thought would not have come around this quickly. I am not saying a state run system is perfect; however, no matter how you put it, there are major flaws with the idea of private prisons. I also note (although this may be from my own personal ideology), is it fair for private enterprise to profit from, in simple terms, the punishment of others?
- Basically, the public services become about the bottom line and how to provide the cheapest service, not necessarily the best service. Specifically with prisons, will be a focus on "Client" outcomes. Who will be the determined client? I'm guessing the community as a whole. Where will that leave people in prisons? Are they just a commodity to provide profit to the most so called "efficient Provider"?
- Privately run prisons will be accountable for performance to the public taxpayer who funds them. They will also provide for a competitive market which is currently monopolised by the Government. This will promote a desire to achieve best results in staff safety and prison management as well as re-integration of offenders. Further, it will increase capacity for high risk detainees, enabling those of low risk, or on short terms of imprisonment, to be housed in privately run establishments, and enable them to have access to programmes which, by reason of their low risk and current prison overpopulation, they would not normally be considered for. I think this will make our lives easier.

- Although I have no experience of privatisation there is abundant hearsay of the negative influences regarding safety, wages and general job satisfaction. If it does proceed will we all be made redundant and then have to re-apply when/if we wish to remain in prison service?
- On the long run privatised prisons will turn out to be very costly for society, because they will lack the attitude that is necessary to reduce re-offending. The released prisoners will very likely re-offend as soon as they shut the gate behind them. Who would want their kids to bump into those people in society?
- The cost of Private Prisons will drop initially, but the contractor will come back to the Government in time for more money as they will find out they can't run a prison on the money offered by the Government.
- Having been employed during the ACRP privatisation we operated differently that the public prison and this divided the service. This division still exists to some extent. Nothing good came from the privatisation.
- A lot of non custodial staff (public) have little to no idea of the impact this will have on staff manning the prisons. Of those who have asked me personally about it, have only heard what the government has said. There is no balance of reports to reflect the true impact of what the government want to implement. They know none fo the statistics of privatisation in other countries.
- Am I correct in thinking that it would only be the Management that is privatised or is it everybody?
- It is not possible to make a profit from public safety – not humanely anyway. I envisage the government having to bail out any private organisation or serious problems with management issues of inmates.
- I have not worked in a private prison and it is like everything, the outcome depends on the people employed. The questions ask for an opinion of what might be, unable to give clear answers with the tabs provided. The service would have to abide by the rules and regulations in place so going private still depends on the people employed and their integrity.
- Private Prisons will not only cost extra \$\$\$\$ but will also have lots of social problems for both the prison workers as well as for the prisoners.
- No room for rehabilitation. It will only be a thick prison where criminals will learn to be harder and therefore will end up committing more serious crimes. This is the biggest fear.
- ACRP was a rip roaring success if you believe the people who promote the Privatisation Theory. But in fact the prison was only managing Remands who had no Programmes provided as is the expectation of Public Prisons. Why would someone want to run a Prison if there was no money in it for them, the only reason they do it IS TO MAKE MONEY – TAX PAYERS.
- All evidence points to lowering of staff pay, corruption at the top end and taking of shortcuts to achieve efficiencies. If the Government are going to compare public prisons with the Auckland remand, they would be better to a similar type of prison for this purpose.
- If the government want to cut costs, start by dismissing over-paid, under-informed consultants. Sentence planning too, must go – it's just a drain on resources and achieves nothing. Rehabilitation/Reduced offending occurs between a staff and prisoner relationship, not any

programme some PC boffin wants to shove down their (inmates) throats. If a prisoner wants to change their ways, they will do so, whether it is with our help or using their own resources.

- Prisons should run under the Government umbrella. It should be the responsibility of the state to look after offenders. Neither the Police nor the courts are privatised – where is the logic in privatising prisons? This in my mind is a step backwards which needs to be avoided at altogether.
- My view point is the same as expressed by PSA. Privatisation is motivated by profit and any efficiencies gained are likely to be reflected by loss of service and compromises in various areas. Should be the role of a Government Department.
- They have tried it before at great costs to the taxpayer and Public Prison. You cannot give prisoners the same services and rights that Public Prisons are now giving and make a profit for your shareholders.
- As I have only seen the negative stuff, this leaves me somewhat neutral as what are good things if any, both sides need to be shown to get a real idea of what the truth is as nothing seems concrete.
- The only people to benefit will be the private company. All employees (possibly with some exceptions) will have reduced pay and conditions and will have a poorer standard of living. Staff will move on as other jobs become available and private prisons will always have trouble recruiting good loyal staff. Poor moral because of this. Also private companies are likely to cut corners as they are profit driven. People contributing to the State Sector retirement Scheme would probably lose future benefits as they would no longer be working for the “State”.
- I personally feel that there are no benefits to the prison service being run by private organisations. Most current figures and surveys show this. Other than lining someone else’s pockets and quite probably overseas investors which takes away \$\$ money form New Zealand and does not at all help our already floundering economy, but also poses huge threat to health and safety as it will only be about revenue gathering and not looking after the staff to above required standard.
- Only one! Profits before people!
- Will have a huge negative impact with regards to achieving objectives, conditions will not support objectives to be achieved.
- Would require a lot of work to form a partnership with a private organisation, especially around information sharing.
- Culture remains pretty under-rated as far as improvement goes for Pacific Island staff. The need for Management to work closer with staff would also improve conditions considerably. Overall we seem to be a hell of a lot better off than any private run prison.
- I firmly believe that the locking people up is the job of the state and not that of a company that wants to make a profit out of it.
- Privatisation of Prisons is the worst thing that could happen, valued experienced staff will leave the job and there will be many serious assaults on staff and other prisoners. Protective equipment will be needed by staff and it is not a good idea to go private.
- The prison service should be concerned with public safety as a priority, not with the saving of money. Concern that close links may not be maintained as prison focus on saving money.

- The flow of information can be hampered because neither service necessarily understands each others processes.
- I know that privatisation of prisons overseas has resulted in many negative outcomes. When you are out to make a profit then the corners that may be cut are the corners that might cause problems. I worry about people who are not experienced in managing offenders setting up the guidelines for managing them. This will also will create a them and us mentality if both kinds of prison run concurrently.
- I think the Liam Ashley incident a few years ago is an indicator of what can happen when custodial or prison type responsibilities are handed on to non-custodial or prison trained personnel.
- There are ethical concerns in regards to parole, rehabilitation and inmate employment. as the private company's primary concern is making money and financial overheads. The private company loses money if prisoners undertake rehabilitation and/or get parole. Inmate employment run by private companies can negatively effect business and exploit prisoners. It has been a source of corruption in other countries, cheap labour, bribes etc.
- I disagree with specific Maori prisons as proposed by Pita Sharples. Public need to be made aware of the fact that when ACRP went into private hands, only the best behaved prisoners were sent there as the government of the day wanted to ensure that the public could see a successful outcome. They never reported on what the remainder of prisons had to deal with.
- We have been through this process with ACRP where they were able to be selective of their prisoners and therefore the incident rate was distorted because they were not housing the hard core of prisoners. Also the pay rates and in my opinion, quality of staff was lower than that of public prisons and this invited a lack of ability and trust. Private prisons have been tried in Australia and evidence supports a lack of faith in their overall performance based on the fact that the majority of states are now driving back towards state run prisons. We only need to remember the impact of Strangeways in Britain which led to a National drive to change the way they ran their service.
- Private prisons are about profit, not about keeping the public safe and reducing re-offending. If private prisons come in there has to be a level playing field by which they are compared to public prisons and not to be able to highlight the positive aspects and minimise the negative ones. Judged by the same standards. A strong team of security monitors need to be assigned to each private prison, providing 24/7 coverage to ensure compliance. The benefits of private prisons in other countries needs to be assessed by an independent source and published to the public. Would a referendum on private prisons be an option?
- I believe that privatisation will put more focus on money rather than care and safety. I have previously worked in the disability sector in privatised organisations and there is a tendency to cut staff down to bare minimum compromising on care. Staff also tend to be paid less and have to continually fight for pay that just keeps up with inflation, let alone pay that is on par with the job they do. I believe the same will occur in the prison environment. Strangely enough I don't think privatisation will even save all that much money, it just gets spent on different things.
- All systems have positive and negative aspects, however the concern is making a profit is the major focus of the prison system. Concern would be that they will not handle the most difficult prisoners

and this will be left to the state prisons to manage. There is a very strong requirement for private prisons to be open and accessible to being monitored and challenged by independent monitors. Private prisons can be innovative e.g. all the programmes they put into ACRP for remand prisoners, plus employing full time psychologists whose role was solely focussed on prisoners, rather than parole board reports etc. The question is whether they will need the services that deal with rehabilitation and reintegration, and if they are contracted to provide this, linking into the state offered services to get consistency of approach.

- One example of the Department privatising is the Liam Ashley incident. Who had to pick up the pieces?
- Concerns will be systems will still need to interact to enable seamless service between PS and CPPS. Will this still be achievable? If they were only part privatised then the government could still have some control and accountability of the corrections systems and processes. Are people going to be as helpful with information sharing? Is this a cost cutting exercise? Will PS staff working conditions be improved or disadvantaged in order to save money? Especially in today's society where public safety is under such scrutiny, what is the cost to the taxpayer if you cannot see improvements to public and staff?
- As a reintegration worker, I believe that private prisons would not provide the service I currently do and would only be focussed on containing prisoners and releasing them back into the community without treating the issues relating to their offending.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that private prisons are not effective. Private prisons operate to make a profit and are answerable to their board of directors... not to the NZ public. Evidence suggests private prisons operate at minimal expenditure therefore impacting greatly on quality of service. "Save a buck but at what expense"? Management regime will differ from the departments model and no one is assured of a job in a private prison therefore in these times of economic recession we are not helping ourselves with the inevitable job cuts or down that will in all probability occur.
- Do not feel safe and generally unhappy.
- Privatisation leads to an ethos of lets make a profit and you cannot make a profit from punishment unless you cut back on the Social Service and Rehabilitation aspect of a prison. Therefore a private prison will then become an even greater "University of Crime" with more and more people being released into the community with a greater knowledge and belief that they can commit crime and get away with it.
- I believe as a Social Worker I will be unable to offer the service I presently provide because of the ethos of make a profit. This means that I will be expected to provide the same service but in less time. An impossible task! This will lead to a greater number of disgruntled clients and whanau.
- I work in the prison reintegration services and have found the Department of Corrections focus is around the individual's wellbeing. We work hard to ensure that when they do go back to their whanau they are ready with the tools and inspiration that they need to start a new way of life. With what I have researched, I cannot satisfy myself that it will continue in the realms of a private prison.
- I do not believe it is a responsible thing to do to put prisons back in the hands of private companies. There is too much negative research/evidence across the world to support the issues highlighted by

ineffective running of private prisons. Extremely negative impact. Prisoners will not get the same quality service in my opinion.

- Privatisation never worked in any country I have either lived or worked in. Since the onset of this governments decision to privatise I have yet to find a high percentage of any positives towards it. But true to form any National (Conservative) run government will always think of the party first then the country.
- I believe that the present government is of the opinion that the Auckland Remand centre was a success. However, my opinion, based on publicly available information, is that their performance was not good in a wide range of areas. I would not choose to work for a private corrections company and believe that PPS is more accountable.
- The impact on privatisation is felt by all sectors of the business be it custodial or non custodial. At the moment non custodial business areas are expected to more for less, to work harder and longer for no financial gain. Any impact felt and/or managed by the custodial areas will have a ripple effect across all other business areas. The main concern is that privatisation is about doing the same job for less money and making a profit on top of this. This can only spell disaster because this business is driven by the government of the day and the decisions legislatively that impact on how the piece of legislation is driven.
- My main concerns would be for the safety of the floor staff e.g. working conditions due to overcrowding and Officer to Prisoner ratio. The quality of persons employed due to wage cuts, the added cost to the taxpayer and the quality or lack of prisoner rehabilitative programmes.
- This would be an opportunity for money saving to get in the way of the reason prisons exist - to incarcerate and rehabilitate. It would give an opportunity for fraud, stand over tactics, "gang management" etc of the prisons. Definite step backwards.
- Dangerous to have separate prisons & legislative law for different cultures. A very racist approach.
- Big cultural differences/privileges as it is without privatisation – everyone should be treated equally. Offenders will treat us differently; not all under the same 'hat'
- Staff safety and rehabilitation would be compromised
- Privatisation of prisons is a mercenary option, serving self interests i.e. money. We have already seen the hard line by management to no spending and it's effects on the prison. Also we have seen corruption at the lower levels of staff. What will happen when the purse strings are tightened further, will that not extend further up the chain so that the "Company" for a better word, can reach it's performance goals? We are already a tick box compliant service, how easy is that to corrupt?
- Staff turnover will be high due to job dissatisfaction. Look at what happened with Chubbs and their escorting the youth Liam Ashley, who died. Because of that whole the whole Prison Service in Corrections has to undergo massive changes with the introduction of the waist restraint use. This involved thousands of dollars put into implementation, upgrading prison vehicles, staff training across the country and purchasing waist restraints first from an overseas manufacturer which didn't work, and finally given to a local ex-prison officer who designed a more suitable waist restraint as he knew (after walking the floor) what would be required. All of this because a "Private" firm did not

ensure safety of a prisoner. How many other initiatives will we have to make up, to cover simple core duties (or lack of) not conducted with a private firm.

- I don't believe that private prisons are the answer. Information that we have received is that they have to save money somewhere, so they cut down on programmes and staffing levels. If you look at our current operating budget, the major expenditure is staff costs. We can't run on any less staff unless we significantly reduce unlock hours or increase the risk to staff by reducing FTE's which will be a huge risk. We are trying to be world leaders in Corrections, give us the tools to do our jobs.
- A private prison will be motivated by returning as large a profit as possible to their shareholders. To enable this to happen, they will lower wages and conditions for the prison officers and provide the bare minimum to the inmates.
- Privatisation of public assets in any country throughout history will lead to job losses, streamlining will follow where people will have to apply for their own jobs (which they always do) for less pay. Privatisation in the UK is and always will be a disaster, especially in the Prison service. Examples will be: staff on less pay will be less enthusiastic about their job and will cut corners, staff will also be more enthusiastic to bring in contraband to subsidise their poor pay. Staff will feel less stable in their jobs due to contract renewals after a certain time, if contract was not renewed and another company takes over, then staff may have to again re-apply for their jobs again and again on even less pay than before
- My concern is the capacity for inconsistency in offender management and possibly for corruption.
- I have already told Pita Sharples that privatisation of public services does not work. It will cost more money, lose the experience that we have gained and will set about reinventing the wheel for profit rather than public service.
- Europe find private prisons inept. Australia find them too expensive. USA find them corrupt for paying of judges to send more convicts to prison.
- There is too much non co-operation between prisons now, I feel, having worked for security companies in the past that co-operation will end up being nil
- It appears to me that the ability to gain or gather accurate information is somewhat restricted by the mantle of "commercial Sensitivity". The true cost of incarcerating prisoners is a private prison includes a "head office" component, but I do not think this is applied to the private sector though they use the HO component.
- Overseas information shows that private prisons don't work
- The article that was published from the PSA in the paper was great. It was based on facts that could be backed up. We need to get questions asked in the house over some of the comments made by the Minister. That way the facts will come out to a wider group and be reported on by TV. Possibly we need to research overseas and see how many private prisons are going back into state control because they failed.
- I can see the public prisons that are not converted to private prisons housing the "more difficult to handle" prisoners that are causing financial damage to the private prisons just as occurred with ACRP when that prison was privately run.

- Privatisation of prisons will initially have a honeymoon period of success, then reality will set in. Prisoners will adapt and manipulate the system. Staffing will reach a crisis point as conditions of employment WILL have a major impact. I believe I would seriously consider retirement and I am still a young person
- It will be difficult to establish practises around the release of prisoners and their compliance with completing the remaining part of their sentence in the community and their reintegration into the community.
- I worked for the Probation Service in the UK for 8 years, including a prison secondment and have some experience and knowledge of the problems of privately run prisons within that country. Commonly, prison officers/correctional officers in privately run prison have far less training and access to developmental opportunities than that of their state employed colleagues. From my experience, private prisons in the UK suffer from poor morale. High staff turnover, less favourable terms and conditions of employment, corruption and inadequate security (higher prisoner to staff ratio in private prisons). It was common for staff in privately run prisons to try to gain employment with their state counterparts due to these problems. These problems, in turn, have a negative effect on prisoners, commonly spending too much time in their cells and not having access to suitable and meaningful; rehabilitative programmes to name just two (due to staff shortages).
- I believe there will be a culture of fear brought among support staff, as to whether or not their jobs will safe. This I believe will have a very negative effect on morale.
- I feel that all the good progress which has been made with reintegration and programmes could be compromised. PPS has made some positive moves. Although I have not worked for a private prison, I have seen the results. Profit driven, corruption within staff being a higher risk sue to pay rates, and no link to other stakeholders. Of overseas companies were running the prisons there would be little knowledge of NZ culture (i.e. Maori/PI groups). If it is only a select group of sites identified for privatisation, it would create division within staff groups although they would be doing the same job.
- The idea of privatisation is completely 'dollar' driven and has no relevance to improved service, reintegration of prisoners, safety of the public etc.
- This is a joke. I am a PCO in service for twenty years. I don't want private prisons. This is risking my future.
- It would be a shame to see private Maori only prisons as that is a huge backward step. Concern on how to monitor corruption when there are private and state entities
- It hasn't worked anywhere else in the world so why reinvent the wheel?
- Private prison may have very little interest in enabling rehabilitation programmes for offenders.
- It ahs been a few years since ACRP was returned to the PS and to date we are still chasing Courts around the Northern Region for warrants to validate pre detention. The concept of the Private Prison was once the prisoner was sentenced it was PS problem. This has a big impact on the taxpayers through illegal detentions. If Private Prisons don't acre about our laws and procedures, then what makes anything else different. Also if a Private Prison can run a prison cheaper than

Public Prisons then what are they cutting out? There is no way I can see that they can without putting either staff, prisoners or public at risk.

- Privatisation will effectively stop the appropriate reintegration of prisoners back into the community, as this will not be seen as profitable endeavour. Programmes for prisoners will be limited for the same reason. As more and more services get cut to ensure that a profit will be made, my work as a social worker will increase (and my pay decrease) due to the unrest from both staff and prisoners. This frustration is likely to manifest itself in an increase in physical assaults by all parties. If double bunking is part of the privatisation this will also increase my work load as sexual assaults become part of the norm in this prison. To date there have been NO sexually related incidents at this prison.
- It has been commented that even we are 'ideological' in our approach not to support "privatisation" of prisons yet is it not the states role to ensure the safety/security and human rights of its citizens? Is this not why civilised countries, like ours, have laws/rules and a government legislature that is voted by its citizens? Privatisation per se is not a problem, but it should be to the betterment of its citizens and not to their detriment and where its citizens can visibly notice any economic gain. Privatisation as its name infers, of prisons is purely a "commercial" venture and as such should not be supported at the expense of its citizens, albeit, the criminal element. The Justice system within NZ is not just about prisons. Justice in its entirety is a bona fide responsibility of government and should not be "piecemealed" for the benefit of other.
- The sooner it goes back to Private the better, I took a pay drop of over \$20,000 to get the hell out of PPS. Is it corrupt, the staff are lazy, the management are inefficient and the prisoners are running the staff?
- I think it would impact negatively on recruiting for Health Service staff.
- Friends, who have worked in Private Prisons in Australia, have stated to me that they are babysitters. Minimal training, over-crowding, minimal staff, with low morale and the prisons are shut down with minimal notice. We are better than this. There is no re-integration, just lock/unlock on a daily basis. Staff would become corrupt to survive in this environment.
- It will all be about the money and will be at the expense of programmes and training...more cost saving the better as they have to make a profit out of an unprofitable area!!
- Privatisation is not a good move.
- It has been proven that officers working in a private prison do not have as much interaction with the prisoners. There are not enough officers to be able to interact with prisoners and the hours are long – often 12 hour shifts.
- Private prisons are money orientated and do not look at the rehabilitation side of things.
- In my view the impact that privatisation will have on Rehabilitation Programmes will be strongly negative, particularly Maori Focussed Rehabilitation.
- I sometimes wonder if it can really get any worse than the current lack of leadership throughout the department and the endless reviews which have no direct link to best practice. Just maybe someone might have to start listening, but I'm not hopeful that this would happen

- A privatised prison has one main goal. To make money! To achieve this, the owners of that company will cost cut wherever possible, this will have an adverse effect on the prisoners AND the staff. It will increase tensions among the prisoners which needless to say will be a contributing factor to increased behaviour and assaults on other prisoners and staff, as well as increase the already high staff turnover.
- I have worked in the probation service in NZ and now with PS – however I have been involved with private prisons in the UK (15 years both private and public) and the experience was a negative one. There were very little in the way of programmes for prisoners/rehabilitation for prisoners. The company was very cost focussed, with cost savings in staff wages, training and professionalism.
- Private prisons are profit based and no or little rehabilitative programmes offered
- Agree with what has been said in the paper. Had told my local National MP via a survey not to privatise prisons and follow other countries mistakes. It will be easier to lose your job, there will be lower pay rates and reception will probably go to India.
- It has not worked in Australia or in Auckland ACRP, Government just keep topping up!
- It is 2-3 years since the death of the youth in the security van in Auckland and we are still feeling the effects of that incident in our every day work with the vast changes in compliance. When you break down all the reports, it was really very simple. All the information was at the hands of the security (private staff) company and he should not have been put in the van. Private prisons are there to make money.
- The ability to provide proven rehabilitation programmes in line with international criteria will be severely compromised. In addition, the ability of staff from CPPS to develop a relationship with private prisons will not be as productive as the ones we have with Public prisons. When ACRP was private, visiting psychologists were treated as outsiders and it was often difficult to gain access to records that are vital for our job and custody staff did not know their prisoners well enough to comment on their behaviour. Ethically, incarceration should not be for profit and should clearly be a function of the state.
- I was involved in the review of training at ACRF before it was handed back to public prisons. The level of capability of the staff was generally lower than in the public prison service. The level of the initial training, which was run by an outside provider, also appeared to be of a lower standard than that supplied at the ITC run by public prisons. The private prisons have also only been involved with the remand prisoners in NZ and they are generally short serving and better behaved. Public prisons deal with harsher prisoners and cannot be compared to any proposed success that private prisons have had.
- Private prisons are there to make a PROFIT, that's why they are 'private'. Their priority is money, not staff health & safety. With the world wide trend for Governments to take back prisons, it seems strange to me that there is even a thought that the NZ government would consider the idea.
- I believe this is an area the government should be responsible for.
- It might affect reintegration initiatives.

- I was involved in a review of the quality of the NCOM qualification and ITC at ACRP before the transferred over to PS. The results were negative in the quality and delivery of both qualification and the training delivered by the provider, which was the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic.
- Reduction in resources and staff because at the end of the day, it will be all about making a profit.
- Privatisation in any shape or form means that this country will go backwards. It is the Crown who has places these prisoners into prison – the responsibility lies with the Crown. I do believe that the prison service desperately needs an overhaul – prisoners with too many rights; officers treated as the bad guys; the right type of person for the job; too much paper work; far too much P.C. Maori run prisons – this is separatism and should never be allowed. I am a New Zealand Maori myself. Condoms and dental dams – absolutely abhorrent. Altar wine permitted into prisons for church services. What next?
- It is a very good idea to have private companies competing with the present state system, keeps the system honest!
- For many years Maori prisoners have been denied the ability to progress and flourish in a positive way. This, according to experience has been due to a number of things I have been witness to during my involvement with the Maori Focus Unit. These are pointed out in the following ways. The concentration being focussed on money rather than the kaupapa (i.e. the individual? that consequently affect the individual diversely. A general assumption that mainstream, i.e. Pakeha, designed programmes are readily acceptable to the indigenous mind which is a total misconception. Mainstream's erroneous belief that they have the ability to change and accommodate Maori needs, turning him/her from negative to positive thinking. There has been a misconception that unemployment and lack of education are the reasons for the high percentage of Maori being incarcerated. Mainstreams scandalous, in at least one situation, to take ownership of very successful Maori designed programmes for Maori and when unable to secure it, have chosen to withdraw the creator's contract and progress without it. In other words it is only good and successful enough when mainstream have the controlling hand. Such an attitude has been doomed to failure, according to the historical proof, undoubtedly at the cost of millions of dollars, considering, designing, preparation, financing, employment and delivery of courses over a period of some years. It is also very interesting that it took twenty years before the system checked whether or not those programmes were actually working. To their dismay, no progress had been achieved. And were the inventors ever held accountable for the wasted millions or was it simply swept under the carpet? If that is not enough, the perpetrators have merely taken those failed programmes, made adjustments, given it a new title then re-fed to the guinea-pigs only to find that again it failed. And the scandal continues. When will the inventors ever learn they do not have the answers for a Maori nation, and neither does any government who sanctions failed plans? We the Maori do!