

PSA media alert

Sunday 20 March 2016



## **Privatising Prisons Opens Door to Fight Clubs, while Selling Off Public Assets.**

The Public Service Association, which represents prison officers, says privatising prisons in NSW is just another short sighted cash grab – selling off more public assets.

PSA Prison Officers Vocational Branch chairman Steve McMahon said it would lead to an even more dangerous situation inside NSW jails, with no transparency.

“Privately run prisons in New Zealand have been a debacle with inmates setting up fight clubs and posting videos of their fights on social media,” Mr McMahon said.

“There is no accountability or transparency.

“The NSW public jail system boasts the best officers in the world.

“Just last week the Minister was announcing bravery awards for our members, who faced life threatening incidents in our overcrowded jails.”

A recent Auditor General’s Report on Cost of Government found publicly run NSW prisons were among the cheapest in Australia to run.

“We have been trying to work with the Baird Government in fixing the overcrowding crisis in our jails, but this is purely about selling off public assets to get their hands on more money.”

**MEDIA ALERT: Midday, Sunday March 20, 2016**

**What: Union response to NSW prison privatisation push.**

**Who: Steve McMahon, PSA POVB chairman.**

**Where: Fountain out the front of Federal Parliament House, Canberra**