



## **PRISON PRIVATISATION – MORALLY WRONG, FINANCIALLY BANKRUPT**

Media Release 21 November 2008

“The NSW Government’s mini budget decision to privatise Cessnock and Parklea prisons would add them to the disaster that prison privatisation has proven around the world. Unions NSW added its voice in a resolution last night.” said JA Coordinator Brett Collins.

Stephen Nathan, an international prison privatisation expert, in the March 2008 edition of the Independent Monitor (UK), disclosed that a leaked report placed ten of the eleven private prisons in the UK in the bottom quarter of the performance register of all UK prisons “and showed they are consistently worse than their publicly run equivalents.”

Privatising prisons “requires more people in the criminal justice system for longer and is squarely at odds with the public good”, wrote Mr Nathan.

The budget decision to privatise was based on a 2005 report of the Legislative Assembly ‘*Value For Money From NSW Correctional Centres*’.

Jane Andrew of the School of Accounting and Finance, University of Wollongong and Damien Cahill from the University of Sydney, attacked the report’s conclusion that the privatised model of prison management delivered superior ‘value for money’. In their paper, ‘*Value for Money? Neoliberalism in NSW Prisons*’, *Australian Accounting Review* 2008, they concluded that ‘the report is fundamentally flawed on its own terms’ and is driven by concepts of ideology rather than any cost data evidence of financial savings.

“Justice Action joins prison officers in the PSA and Unions NSW to utterly oppose the privatisations. Prisoners are human beings – citizens of our community with whom we share a social compact. They are not chattels to generate profits for shareholders” said JA Coordinator Michael Poynder.

*contacts: Brett Collins 0438 705 003*

*Michael Poynder 0401 371 077*