



A message from WA Prison Officers

Respect the Risk is an important initiative of the WA Prisons Officers Union to give a voice to the hundreds of dedicated men and women inside the WA prison system.

Every day Prison Officers face the sort of risks at work that most Australians would not even contemplate – abuse, stress, even violence.

And it's getting worse – our prisons are bursting at the seams, and cutbacks mean we have less time to dedicate to rehabilitation and education. On top of this the spectre of private companies being invited in to run our prisons for profit looms large.

That's why we are asking the public – and our leaders – to Respect the Risk, to start treating Prison Officers with the respect we deserve.

Whether you work in a prison, have family or friends working as Prison Officers – or you just care about keeping WA safe, I urge you to get behind this important campaign.



John Welch
*Secretary of the
WA Prison Officers Union*

Respect the Risk

Join us in campaigning for the WA Government to:

- ✓ deliver a fair wages outcome with no trade-offs for WA Prison Officers
- ✓ commit to addressing the over crowding crisis in our prisons
- ✓ and to get a guarantee that foreign companies will not be allowed to run our prisons for profit



www.respecttherisk.com.au

Contacts for joining the campaign

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**RESPECT
THE RISK**
Keep Our Prisons Safe

**Prison Officers
deserve respect**

www.respecttherisk.com.au

Prison Officers Deserve Respect

It's not an easy job to be a Prison Officer. We face violent and explosive situations every day at work.

More than 70 prison officers were assaulted at work last year – and that risk plays on the minds of every officer.

Our families worry about us and our friends say they wouldn't do the job for quids.

But instead of respecting the risks we face, the West Australian Government is resisting our claim for a fair wages agreement.



Prisons at Breaking Point

While the state government talks big on Law and Order, less attention is given to the capacity of our prisons to deal with those who reach the end of the line.

Eleven of the states 14 prisons are already holding far more inmates than they are designed to.

Since the beginning of 2009, the prison population has increased from 3,923 to 4,886 - that's a similar level of growth to the previous eight years.



Estimates based on the current projected growth of the prison population show that prisons will still be short 1 200 beds by 2015, even with any new proposed prisons.

While the prison population has increased, the number of prison officers has not kept pace – despite efforts to recruit - our officers are managing more prisoners than ever before.

The Risk of Privatisation

And now the WA Government are considering allowing foreign companies to run our prisons for profit

The experience around the globe is that when a prison is privatised jobs are cut, in order to maximise profits for the company and its shareholders.

No one wants to see a repeat of what happened in 2008 when a private company; Global Solution Limited (now G4S), was held responsible for the death of a 46-year-old Mr Ward, who died of heat stress inside a prison van.

WA's prisons are the responsibility of the state. Private companies will lead to fewer staff, more dangerous prisons, less focus on rehabilitation – and poorer justice outcomes for the entire community.

Take the pledge and Respect the Risk:

1. Support a fair EBA outcome with no trade offs
2. All WA prison officers to be permanent, fully trained professionals
3. Address the overcrowding crisis by committing adequate resources
4. Maintain and improve on current levels of rehabilitation and training
5. No private company to run WA prisons or related services for profit

Join the campaign

Name

Email

Phone

Tear off and mail to:

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