

22nd Jan 2020

Submission Regarding Mental Health Enquiry

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm very concerned about the proposed early intervention for "Emerging Mental Illness".

The subjective check-list of symptoms which supposedly indicates likelihood of developing a 'mental illness' would essentially cover every child! These symptoms include: "Irregular feeding patterns, difficulty sleeping, crying, calling for absent parent, separation or stranger anxiety, tantrums, shyness, losing track of a favourite stuffed animal and hyperactivity."

The proposed "social and wellbeing check" is sounding like another case of broadening the net to diagnose and funnel more kids on potentially dangerous prescriptions.

Is it any wonder we have a rampant 'recreational drug' problem in Australia. We are teaching kids from a young age to take drugs for the slightest symptom or problem.

The developing mind and body of a child, particularly from the ages of 0 – 3 yrs, should be free from mind altering and addictive drugs. We should be giving nature a chance before bombarding the child with such 'treatment'.

It's hard to see this proposal of 'early intervention' as anything more than another attempt by the vested interests of psychiatrists and pharmaceutical companies to round up more patients, and generate dollars.

Early education centres and schools should be places of education, not a 'gateway to the mental health system'.

I implore you to block this proposal for the sake of this generation of kids. These kids ARE our future, their health and sanity must be protected vigilantly.

Sincerely,

Lee Rogers

Lee Rogers is a writer/director/producer; his work has been seen in over 130 territories, having directed such iconic TV hits as *The Doctor Blake Mysteries*, *Home & Away* and *Neighbours*...in addition to over 300 TVC commercials for many of the globe's biggest brands. <https://leerogers.com.au/>