

9 January 2020

I would like to submit my thoughts to the **Psychiatric Funding and Productivity Commission** regarding the early childhood intervention program.

It is my view that funding for this program should be curtailed as it is spending our money on drugging little children. I think it is disgraceful that children as young as 18 months old are being given drugs when they are just learning their motor skills.

I have been a driving instructor for many years (13) and I have found that teenagers who have been on psychiatric drugs through their childhood, find it much harder to be present, learn new skills, adjust their response times and their awareness of the environment is a lot lower than children who have not been on these drugs. Also, they lack confidence and a sense of self-worth. – some of the students I have spoken to have told me that all the drugs do is make them feel tired, but because they have been labelled, they must stay on these drugs.

Some of these children have been put on drugs when they have just been a bit naughty or extra active. The long-term side effects of these drugs have a major, detrimental effect on their whole future lives. These children are the future of our country and if they are not present and not capable or their abilities have been suppressed by the drugs, what is our future?

Many of these drugs can cause or are linked to suicidal behaviour and suicide. In 2008/09 there has been an almost 40% increase in suicide, concurrent with the use of anti-depressants increasing approximately 60% in young people since that time.

Do we actually know what substances are in these drugs?

Mental health spending has increased in the last 6 years, now reaching almost double figure billions with no accountability, including positive results.

Would you be willing to take these drugs yourself, or be forced to administer them to your loved ones?

Please take a good look at the consequences of action taken now and how that will affect the future.

Sincerely

Diane Atcheson