

## **Mental Health Productivity Commission Draft Report**

I hereby provide a submission on the Mental Health Productivity Commission Draft report as an individual and natural born citizen of Australia who is extremely concerned with the new direction in Mental Health as proposed in the Draft Report.

- Firstly I disagree with and am totally against the recommended screening of social and emotional development which has been proposed and the early childhood physical development checks to enable early intervention.
- Children need the opportunity, love, positive environment, and encouragement to grow without interference and hindrance and labels. Many famous and intelligent people including Albert Einstein, would have been labelled as with mental illness had he been screened for early intervention.
- Whilst much argument can be made for the screening of babies, toddlers and young children, it is only academic argument without evidence or clear cut facts to support the so called 'benefits' it would provide.
- Quite the reverse is true and evidence shows that although billions of dollars of funding from the public purse has been directed into mental health, where is the substantial reduction in mental health problems and issues? There is none, only an ever increasing statistic. This is real fact. This is evidence.
- How can the paper state that 'almost half of all Australian adults will meet the diagnostic criteria for a mental illness at some point in their lives'? This seems to be a deliberate attempt to change our language and instead of people learning to cope with the challenges of our journey called 'life', it is an attempt to redefine issues of living as 'mental illness'. Yes, people need support through the challenges and issues of life, but support cannot be turned into a profit-making business.
- Mental Health needs to look at alternatives and this Commission is more of the same - there is nothing innovative or new.
- The paper mentions 'that mental illness has come a long way' and refers to 'under-investment in prevention and early intervention' - but yet again the evidence shows an ever increasing statistic of Mental Health issues which shows that current methods are not working or producing positive results.
- Please leave our babies and 0 to 3 year olds alone - they do not require any 'mental health' intervention or screening. Babies and young toddlers need love, encouragement and a positive environment, they do not need labelling or screening, and their mothers should not be made to feel that there is something potential 'wrong' with their child. There is a huge amount of evidence which points to the over prescribing of drugs and labelling of children with ADHD, and this proposal will contribute and add to the same problem.
- We are not God, and let's not pretend that we are. Babies and the young have rights too, and adults shouldn't be unnecessarily interfering with them. It's horrendous.

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