

Submission

Dear Commissioners

As an Australian taxpayer, I am writing to oppose proposed solutions in the Mental Health Draft Report and rather support further federation-wide investigations into results of current practices, both inside and outside institutions.

Mental health professionals in Australia have been working with the same tools toward the same outcomes, resulting in the situation as described in the *Video: Mental Health Draft Report*. It does not seem to add up why investing more funds in the same type of practice would result in different outcomes.

My major concern is in regard to proposed prevention and early intervention: “Start Now: Incorporate social & emotional wellbeing checks into existing physical development checks for 0-3 years old.”

On this website there is an example of a screening checklist:

<https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/age-6-12/mental-health-conditions-in-children/child-mental-health-checklist>

Based on a type of subjective scoring system like this, any kid in Australia could be referred to a mental health practitioner. Even the best mental health practitioners are given limited options. The solution is usually addictive drugs that increase the risk of suicide, as I have personally witnessed on two occasions, following a year of treatment. This tells me that mental health practices have a long way to go.

I am opposed to the introduction of routine psychiatric evaluation and treatment of children of any age.

Thank you for your attention.

Zsolt Szabo (Mr)