

To the Psychiatric Funding and Productivity Commission 9 January 2020

I am writing to express to you my concerns regarding the amount of young children in our country that are being drugged, the consequences of this both short term and long term and the amount of money being spent on this, with no measurable good results or it seems oversight.

I am worried about the proposal to screen young children and toddlers for mental illness or emerging mental illness. It seems improbable to me that psychiatrists can predict an emerging mental illness in a small child – it seems with a list of questions?

From what I have been able to read, it appears that they look for things like irregular feeding, crying, temper tantrums, wanting the light on etc. As a mother of two men (twins) I know that these things are quite common in small children who still go on to be productive, responsible contributing adult Australians. (The type of future generation we need and want for our country).

As many medical professionals will tell you, parents (mothers especially) know their children and their normal reactions better than anyone. Yet, it seems that with the use of a few questions anyone from a doctor to a nurse, early child care worker etc; can conduct this test and refer the child for mandatory prescriptions. Once done this is very hard to undo and labels the child often, for the rest of their lives.

I have known people who have told me that once on this road, children are not only on these drugs but that the amounts and types can keep being changed with more drugs added as they progress through their childhood.

Australia seems to have an incredibly high percentage of its population already on psychiatric drugs which can have very bad side effects (including suicide and suicidal thoughts, self harm). Many people become less extroverted and seem to start communicating less.

I know that Australia also has a very high suicide rate and I believe that rather than curing this, these drugs actually increase by far that statistic.

A lot of money has been put into this area with no known oversight.

As we face one of the worst national crisis in our country, ever (scorching heat and our country burning) I know that our future leaders are going to need to be bright, alert, capable and communicating people, not people who have grown up with daily drugs of severe side effects that seem to make them just feel drowsy all the time.

Trusting that you will look deeply into these points on behalf of our country.

Regards,

Rosy Lemon