

Dear Commission,

23th Jan 2020

I would like to put forward my opinion with regards to the proposed screening for social and emotional well being of children 0-3 years old.

I believe this may be a grave mistake on behalf of the Australian government and will result in embassessment and a failure to correctly handle our youth of today and the future.

Being a mother of 3 children I understand that much care is needed to look after the next generation. I do not believe that screening for social and emotional well being of young children from the ages of 0 years to 3 years is the correct procedure. From my own experience bringing up a child is a big adventure but this does not necessarily mean that babies and children are or will be mentally ill in the future just because they are having some trouble. There also seems to be no logical and scientific psychiatric testing for mental illness to diagnose correctly.

Per my understanding the screening procedure looks for symptoms such as crying, asking for an absent parent, sleeping problems etc . These are normal sypmtoms of being a child as I'm sure we can all recall with ourselves or our own children.

It is also my opinion that this will lead to an over drugging of our youth with anti-depressants instead of looking at other possible reasons (such as diet) for these symptoms. The side effects of some of these drugs are very concerning such as heart attack, stroke and suicide.

I ask you to very carefully review the possible disasterous consequences of implementation of this program to screen for social and emotional wellbeing of 0-3 year olds in Australia.

Regards, Liz Grogan