

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Submission to Productivity Commission Mental Health Inquiry

I find it very sad indeed that thousands of children each year between the ages of 2-6 years old are prescribed psychiatric drugs. Often, these innocent children are not tested for allergies, environmental stresses or malnutrition.

I taught a child who was taking medication for ADHD. I asked him how it affected him. This child said, 'I feel so confused all the time. I don't play up any more because I'm too confused to think. '

Whilst teaching, I observed an escalating number of children becoming anxious, lacking attention, frustrated and emotional in the class room. In sitting down to hear them read, I discovered that those who were not doing well could not read by sounding out words and they could not memorize words like other children who were not having trouble. In teaching them to read phonetically, their frustrations fell away.

That child, who had been drugged into overwhelming confusion, need only have been taught to read properly. We need to stop drugging innocent children and help them with healthy remedies that encourage strength and growth. Why are psychiatry's solutions that cripple our children mentally and physically taken on board sweepingly without inspection? We need to apply benevolence not uncaring expedience when it comes to our children - our future civilization.

Thank you.