

Submission to Productivity Commission

I am a teacher and am also a trained Drug Withdrawal Specialist.

I note the proposal before the Commission to get medicos to check Australia's very young (<3) for social and emotional wellbeing which I take as trying to predict potential mental health problems (commonly called screening) .

I strongly object to this use of my tax money and that of the common wealth.

It will not boost the productivity of the country since there is no reliable way to assess and predict behaviours. This will lead to many healthy, active children being incorrectly labelled with some disorder that has no scientific test. Many of these children will then live up to the label.

The current regime of handling this sort of non-normal behaviour with drugs that is prevalent in Australian society, has many unwanted (and often dangerous) side effects. Given there is no successful way to accurately assess long term emotional states lets not expect medicos to do the impossible.

I submit that the common wealth is better expended on ensuring that all young people have productive career paths available to them. Being unemployed is very soul destroying.

For those young people needing mentoring I feel we overlook the incisive role that churches could play in supporting our young people as a contact point in crisis situations