

I am a father and grandfather and my children and grandchildren have been brought up with the love and care anyone would expect but never did we see the need to have our children tested for depression. All our kids grew up well adjusted and have great lives; of course life can be very unkind and there are wins and losses, but never have they needed psychiatric medication. One of our grandchildren was tested for food intolerance as his behaviour was sometimes odd and could well have been seen as displaying not normal reactions, and once the food culprit was found his behaviour became consistently good, and he has grown up as a typical high-energy kid. I believe more should be spent on medical reasons for behavioural issues, food intolerances and dietary problems and finding food intolerances that change behaviour. I know sugar is well known to hype kids, but psychiatric drugs is not the answer in the vast majority of cases. I have observed myself the results of incorrect diagnosis and lives ruined without the benefit of x-rays, blood tests, or any tests done before they were evaluated for a mental problem. A consultation lasting 10 minutes to observe symptoms is not scientific enough for me!

The stats of success on mental health programs as reported in articles I have read do not support the proposal to test babies and young children as there has been a massive amount of Taxpayers money spent on mental health and we get continued no change situation in the cured statistics, again media reports, but observation alone shows this to be the case.

Look at the results of mental health treatment and to the money allocated to it and no business decision would be made to support a program that had so little success rate. So the proposal is ludicrous and fails on all aspects. So what's left to us but to not fund with further monies an industry that is not getting the outcomes we would like. Especially with the minds of our very young who are developing. These are our future. Let them grow up strong and resilient and who are used to handling the vagaries that life throws up, good and bad. Lets not weaken them with the idea that pills are a solution. At least no in all cases.

Lets get further research done before we consider this proposal.

One cannot help but consider the input of the pharmapheuctical industry here and its bottom line and desire and plans for expansion. I think this may be cynical but needs to be confronted as part of a whole also.

Please keep our kids growing up in a society where strength of character is also facing up to the problems of life and coping with obstacles and barriers. In your hands here is a

future generation. The future for us all depends on decisions made now. Consequences only occur in the future. Lets not make a mistake here.

Yours faithfully
Reverend Lenny Collen