

20th January 2020

Submission

Dear Sir or Madam,

Here is my submission concerning the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health “Prevention and Early Intervention”.

I am a parent of 3 and a grandparent of 2 and I am very very concerned about this idea or plan to screen zero to 3 year olds for “mental illness”.

Our children are our future and when they are being subjected to non-science based screening (my opinion) I feel I should speak out to protect their Human Rights as they are defenceless.

People are not all the same and evaluation kid’s behaviour against a list of “behaviour occurrences”, and potentially medicating them based on that is actually insane in my opinion.

Any adult that has not eaten well, or slept well, is likely to be considered “mentally ill” for a period of time on that day, so how are we going to ensure that kids have had good food and good rest before being screened here?

We could be medicating a future Prime Minister or world leader just because his or her parents don’t know what a good diet is for a growing child on that day of screening.

Just because the young kids cannot say why they feel a bit off that day is not a reason why they should be tested and shown to have “emerging mental illness” and medicated from then on.

Observation of kid’s behaviour is not the same as an X-Ray or a blood test (science based test).

This type of screening is not science based like medical tests in a doctor’s clinic or a hospital.

Just because someone looks like they have a broken leg does not mean we put them in a cast. We take an X-Ray (a scientific test). We do not treat them based on how they are walking.

We all need to take responsibility here to ensure defenceless children have their Human Rights defended as they cannot do that for themselves. Screening and medicating kids based on a short period of time, when we do not know their circumstances are around sleep and diet, to me, is cruel and actually insane.

Thank you,

Fergus Gartlan