

17<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Mrs Maria Meilak

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Maria Meilak and I am an employer based in Newport, Melbourne.

My biggest concern as an employer that my husband and I have is the lack of Drug Education and Drug Awareness that is given to employers and employees in the workplace so as:

1) - Employers can see the early signs of drug abuse by employees and take appropriate action to prevent any workplace injuries that cost the Employer \$\$\$ and productivity. Prevention being better than cure!

2) - Employees are aware of their responsibility in the workplace by the intake of drugs while working eg: Alcohol, Marijuana etc.

Now I DO NOT JUST MEAN STREET DRUGS either, I also mean Prescription Drugs – pharmaceutical drugs that employees take to handle illnesses, pain and Depression in their life etc.... There is a dramatic rise with 1 in 5 person on Psychiatric Drugs in Australia.

In 2007/08, Australia had 201 children under 3 years old on psychiatric drugs, including 53 aged under 1 year old.

- In 2015, there were 7,817 children aged 2-6 years old on antidepressants, antipsychotics and “ADHD” drugs.

What kind of a workforce are we going to employ if our children are being drugged at such a young age. They do not stand a chance and neither do we!

It looks like it is WAY TOO EASY for Psychiatrists/Doctors to write a prescription these days which is not even based on any proven pathological tests, as it is to give a medical certificate for a cold. I am seeing that the Drug Companies are the winners in all of this. We need to check who, in the Drug Companies, has a

vested interest in rising sales of Pharmaceutical Drugs especially these spike-increases in the Psychiatric Drugs.

We as employers, do not have the luxury to take a day off, as we are constantly trying to keep our head above water financially as an organization and for the benefit of our staff.

The onus always lies on the Employer to take action, to enlighten, educate and ensure the safety of the staff but, at the other end of the scale PRESCRIPTION DRUGS are being given out like lollies eg: Ritalin in school grounds are being sold among students, 1 in 9 drivers on our road are driving under the influence of Drugs – Yes Drugs. We are fighting a losing battle if we don't STOP THIS NOW!!!

Firstly, we need to heavily regulate and keep a strict control and make Psychiatrists and their Industry totally accountable for their irresponsible actions with the “lolly” handouts of Psychiatric Drugs.

Secondly, we need to implement an effective Drug Education Program which should start in primary School grade 5 - 6, so as by the time the young person reach High School and the workforce they have the TRUE ABOUT DRUGS and can make an informed decision for themselves and say - NO! There is a program like this currently called <https://www.drugfreeworld.org> which is very effective around the world.

I did some investigations for myself and found that Psychiatric Drugs have a “BLACK BOX” label on them which is the most DANGEROUS WARNING label that could be given by the TGA – our governing body who is responsible for regulating drugs/ vitamins in Australia and clearly stating that they can cause suicidal tendencies!

Again “FREE LOLLIES” equal rising profits for the pharmaceutical companies.

**We really really really need Psychologist/Psychiatrist out of our WorkPlace they are destroying businesses, the economy, directing the Employers attention on irrelevant things instead of just – Running a business!**

Thank you

Maria M and Paul Meilak – Melita Auto Electrical Services – Business Owners.