

To who it may concern,

I am making a second submission in regards to the mental health bill concerning the screening of 0-3 year old children for potential mental disorders.

I received a reply to my first submission that stated that the productivity commission has not advocated screening for mental illness, and it has not recommended or suggested that health checks be linked to referring children to a mental health professional. Are you able to clarify what the process is for the screening, if it is not through a referral to a mental health professional?

I strongly object to ANY type of investigation/screening/monitoring (whatever you wish to call it) as many factors underly child behaviours. Using these behaviours as indicators to prescribe drugs, especially in ages 0-3 where they cannot fully comprehend or communicate, is dangerous and detrimental to the development of children, and to our society.

I do not see the rise in psychotropic drugging of our society to correlate to any improving statistics in criminality, education or even general happiness. It can therefor be seen that an attempt to drug even younger people would only result in further problems.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Appleford