

23 January 2020

Regarding Proposed Screening of 0 to 3 Year old Children for Mental Health Issues.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you with grave concerns regarding the proposed screening of 0-3 year old children for mental health concerns or issues or illness.

As far as some of the points of diagnosis they are just not logical or sustainable.

A baby who is hungry “cries”

It is a form of vital natural communication to its parents or carers to be fed or nappy change required to express pain or some upset. Or simply for love, affection and cuddles.

I personally had difficulty feeding as a child and had colic. As an adult later in life, I had a physical condition diagnosed which is a purely mechanical condition to do with the mechanics of swallowing. It had nothing to do with my mental health.

I know children who can at times be incredibly “shy” and at other times vitally confident and full of life. The shyness is just inexperience and confidence not yet developed in particular areas of life we dont come out of the womb fully skilled for life yet.

I sincerely urge you to consider the review of this action in the commission. It is purely and simply unfair to push this onto our little people. Our future leaders, mothers and fathers of future babies.

These behaviours of sleep issues, tantrums, sleeping with the light on are normal and are natural. It is human behaviour.

Please consider directing funds towards non drug education of parents on natural methods of parenting in early childhood care centres.

I implore you from the bottom of my heart as a concerned citizen and family member.

Sincerely

Anna Curnuck