

13 Jan. 2020

The Chairperson
Mental Health Inquiry
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION.

Dear Sir/Madam

I understand from reports in the news media that your Draft Report contains a recommendation to implement a regime of screening children under 3 years of age for mental illness indications.

My understanding is that there are no objective tests, such as blood tests or urine tests, that indicate or confirm the presence or likely onset of psychiatric disorders. This leads to the conclusion that any judgments about the mental health of a child or children can only be subjectively based. ✓

To suggest that children be exposed to the perils of psychiatric drugs, with their documented harmful side-effects, on the basis of subjective opinions about those children's mental health state, is an alarming proposal.

I cannot see how such a scheme would contribute to the productivity of our nation. I object most strongly to the possibility of public Funds being used for such an exercise.

I request, simply and clearly, that all such proposals be excised from the recommendations of the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely
Nicholas Costello