

22nd January 2020

Dear Commissioners,

I am concerned about the new proposals I recently learned of regarding the screening of young children for mental illnesses, and would like to respectfully submit my viewpoint on recent developments.

I am a father of 2 boys. One is now a grown man with his own successful life, and the younger is 11 years old, and a source of joy. He is intelligent, happy and adventurous with excellent manners and a loving nature.

People comment on these qualities to me regularly, and ask me how it is he can be this way. I tell them always that the 'secret' to raising a child is to love them, and let them know they are, at all times, and all circumstances, loved. Indeed, the family unit itself seems to be ideally built on love and commitment.

I consider looking wider to the world around me, that a deficit of love between each member of mankind leads eventually to bad things. Only with a lack of feeling between people is war even possible to contemplate. I know that does sound emotional and perhaps even irrational, but from my own experience I have come to know it as pure fact. I think that solutions that tend in the direction of greater affinity between people be they adult or children are much more beneficial than those more coldly concerned with the failings and foibles of us all on a statistical basis.

I submit that rather than going down a path that looks for theoretical faults and then tries to correct such through medical-styled means external to the family, that more attention and resources should be spent on protecting and helping the family unit as itself, to help it better withstand the pressures of modern life and thus be able to offer improved safety and sanity to new generations being raised.

The family is the time-tested unit through which new generations have always tried to build a happier future, and as we are left behind to watch, I suggest that intrusions, pressures and anything sold under the guise of new ideas is not likely to benefit it in any meaningful way something that has already lasted for eons.

I think any resources being contemplated for such radical planning as I have recently discovered should be used to help Australia families in much more meaningful ways to help bring families together, not pull them apart.

Thank you for your time.

Tim Cameron