

Dear Commissioner General,

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the Australian zero to three year olds at risk of being screened for mental (or emotional) disorders.

I believe that there are far too many labels being put on children today with no scientific evidence to back it up. Each child is different and by putting all these labels on them it seems to me that we are just trying to make children conform into what is socially acceptable, taking away their ability to be an individual. Which is quite contradicting to the push of the transgender movement of "a child knows their own identity". If a child truly knows their true identity then why do we need to keep persuading them that they are this label or that label, that they are this gender or that gender.

I have looked after a lot of children in my time. They all express themselves differently, some get sad, some mopey and some express themselves with anger but all of those emotions are fleeting and have never been what defines them in my mind. They are all beautiful and they all grow out of this behaviour, they learn with these hard times comes great pleasure, the pleasure of life. How can a child enjoy the precious moments, in life if we are trying to hide them from that pain which does exist from time to time. I was lucky enough to be born in a time where these labels were only for a select few. In my childhood I learnt that sometimes life can get hard but it made succeeding so much more enjoyable.

Scanning a child at any age is absurd to me as there is no way to prove that a child needs to "be improved" with medications. As no child ever stays the same way, UNLESS put on medication. The only children that I have observed that I have been concerned about are those who seem like they have no soul, and those children have always been the ones that are on medication.

Please let's let children be themselves, please understand my concerns come from a mother of 3 children who have all had their moments but are all very bright beautiful souls, that have lots to learn and lots to explore. My goal for them, is for them to be able to make their own way in life without authority dictating how they need to feel. They are free to be themselves when it comes to their feelings and emotions.

In short I think that all children have space to learn and grow but labelling a child and saying "they have this disorder or that" (regardless of medication) prevents a child from discovering themselves.

Sincerely,
Tanya Goddard