

RE: Prevention and Early Intervention of 0-3-year olds for mental screening

As a parent of very active children, I am concerned that "Prevention and Early Intervention" could be allowed to happen. With no proven science behind psychiatry, with no physical tests, proving a "chemical imbalance", how can our children be screened or tested?

If we are using behavioural patterns including, tantrums, difficulty in sleeping and the loss of a favourite toy then ALL children could be wrongfully diagnosed with a mental illness in one form or another.

To then extrapolate that based on everyday behaviour a child could then go on to have a mental illness in their adult years is pure fortune telling. This is not prevention or early intervention as that would have to be based on real scientific data i.e. blood test, hormone test etc. in order to extrapolate future behaviour and mental illness.

Perhaps rather than spend more taxpayer's money on fruitless treatments that do not work, an investigation should be launched into who is pushing this agenda and how much more money they stand to make.

Our children are our future. Do we want a future led by drug taking zombies or functioning, contributing adults? There is a barrage of holistic treatments available for children who have genuine mental problems. Why are we ignoring scientific treatments based on nutrition, sleep and exercise? These treatments have valid studies but unfortunately the pharmaceutical companies can't make a profit from them.

The side effects of these psychiatric drugs are numerous and dangerous in the extreme. The civil court cases in the U.S against these pharmaceutical companies is an indicator of what we can expect here in Australia if this proposal is allowed to proceed.