

15 January 2020

Attn: Productivity Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a husband, father, business owner and contributing member of our community. I have great concern over the Productivity Commission Draft Report and the proposed programs.

The report itself states, "Despite the rising expenditure on healthcare, there has been no clear indication that the mental health of the population has improved." Yet we are looking for more funding for the current programs and new programs. The draft suggests expanding the programs to 0-3 year olds for screening and further spending for full-time wellbeing leaders in school. The point I want to make is the existing psychiatric programs themselves have not proven to be effective. Were they to have been effective there would be a reduction in children and adults requiring assistance, and an improved mental health of the population.

Statistically more psychiatric drugging of our children has occurred over the past five years with an increase of 34% of children on antidepressants. The problem here is that with more screening there is likely to be an even greater increase of children on psychiatric drugs, of which many cause or have been linked to suicidal behaviour. This is a huge concern for me as a parent and member of our community.

I strongly disagree with the screening of 0-3 year olds. This is a waste of tax pay money and the money is better spent overhauling the whole mental health system. We need to look further and actually find what works and strengthen what is working and getting improvement for those suffering from mental afflictions. Looking at diets, places of rest, real humane care for people in need.

The money proposed could be effectively used with accountability and we could have a great improvement in our countries mental health and wellbeing. I do hope this is what you intend and resolve.

Sincerely

Adam Clarke