

Dear Sir/Madam,

14/1/20

I have noted with grave concern the proposal for screening 0 to 3yr olds for mental illness or emerging mental illness. The likely outcome of such screening is prescribing dangerous mind altering drugs which already has NO evidence of improvement. Psychiatrists themselves admit there are no tests that to confirm any psychiatric diagnosis. There is NO reduction in children or adults requiring assistance.

Australia having the 3rd highest rate of antidepressant use in the world is a bad indicator.

Any child goes through bad patches – it doesn't mean they have or are likely to have a mental illness in the future.

Any parent has witnessed this in their own children and others. I would hate my son to be prescribed a mind-altering drug just because he was going through a bad time – at any age!!!

It is to be noted that in each case of mass killings etc the perpetrator was taking some form of mind altering psychotropic drug – drugs which have the potential of changing the behaviour of otherwise non –violent people.

This can only be a route to NON PRODUCTION!!

A more win- win solution would be a medical test which more often than not picks up a non – diagnosed medical problem followed by a holistic solution of vitamins etc which have NO side effects. I have witnessed numerous positive outcomes with this approach. I have also witnessed deteriorating behavior & health with a prescription of antidepressants.

Surely screening 0 to 3yr olds let alone older children also takes away the ability of the parent to take responsibility for their own children! Is that the way to go ??

With huge cost to the country.

Lets get real solutions of Medical tests, education on healthy living including diet and exercise and real community support. Thus improve the actual health of the

population, reduce spending and create a society that takes responsibility for each other which results in actual PRODUCTIVITY.

Gaylene Fraser