

23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020

ATT: Mental Health Enquiry / Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

The proposed early intervention for “Emerging Mental Illness” has me chilled to the bone.

I have witnessed friends who have their kids labeled with questionable ‘disorders’ and have been prescribed medication for their children. What started out a minor dose built to massive doses and so many different drugs that the child (or now teenager) is dependent on them for life. The parents regret having ever put their kids on the medication.

The symptoms that supposedly indicate likelihood of developing a ‘mental illness’ covers such regular things as “Irregular feeding patterns, difficulty sleeping, crying, calling for absent parent, tantrums, shyness, losing track of a favourite stuffed animal and hyperactivity.” Well that sounds like just about every baby or toddler I’ve ever come across!

The proposed “social and wellbeing check” sounds very much like yet another avenue to route children into the mental health system, which usually leads to costly, addictive and potentially dangerous medication.

Early education centres and schools should be places of education! Please let kids be kids and give them a chance to grow up as nature intended.

Much love,

Kate Ceberano AM  
Singer/Songwriter