

To whom it may concern,

I wish to submit this letter of objection to the proposed “mental health screening” of 3 year olds as recommended by the Australian Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into Mental Health.

The blanket coverage that “mental health” issues receives these days would have us believe that we as a population are all, or the majority “insane” on some level. From my observation, I believe this is total rubbish. People are being told they have “mental health” issues when in fact they are responding in a natural manner to the normal stresses and strains of life in our society today. I am certain that this is a push from pharmaceutical companies via psychiatrists/psychologists and other “mental health authorities” to medicate our society to boost profits into the billions of dollars.

Whilst I agree that there are those who do suffer from serious issues, this is not the majority and with alternative effective strategies to deal with life’s issues, most will get past their difficulties and proceed with a contributing, productive normal life.

However people believing they have a “mental illness” become subject to the “system” whereby they are treated by ineffective “treatments” which includes psychiatric medication and having been labelled and classed as such believe that this is the way they will always be, thus excusing them from recovering and being ‘stuck” in their condition. They NEVER recover and NEVER fully function productively and normally again. This is evidenced by the failure of programmes in place currently in spite of the billions of dollars thrown at them.

However, adults have a choice. Now with this proposal, it is targeting the most vulnerable who have no voice and no choice to condemn them to a life of labelled mental illness, treatments that fail and failure in life.

I have direct experience with difficult toddlers. Night terrors, sleep disturbances, defiant behaviours, lack of concentration and hyperactivity. Within my experience, all of these behaviours have resolved by the time they reach 10 years old, with the application of loving, patient care and instruction. Several had underlying, undiscovered physical health conditions, contributing to the behaviours. Some were diet related.

When these physical health matters were addressed, the dramatic improvements in the children was clearly the result that was required.

The “mental health” screening of 3 year olds is a complete waste of taxpayer money. It will not indicate future problems. Children are learning about life, right and wrong, social behaviours, societal mores, ethical behaviours, self control etc during this period in their lives. Some are faster than others, and some have better examples from parents, family and social contacts than others. All these are factors in a child’s development.

Please abandon this ludicrous, taxpayer waste of money, concerned with little or no evidence of effectiveness, condemning children to a potential “medicated” life, mislabelled and part of broken, arbitrarily based mental health “system”.

Thank you for your attention.

Leanne Hansen