

Attn:
Australian Government
Productivity Commission

22nd Of January, 2020

Re: Mental Health Screening

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit feedback in regard to the inquiry into increasing focus and possibly the amount spent on mental health screening.

I was particularly concerned that there is a proposal to increase the number of children aged 0-3 screened and possibly medicated. This age bracket is a critical time and there are certainly ups and downs during this period. However, these ups and downs are necessary and go part in parcel with a child's development and their ability to solve future problems and handle their environment. Medicating is not the solution. I'm sure you have been already informed of the documented negative side effects, increased dependence on medication and the increased suicide rate from external sources already.

I do NOT agree at all with medicating and interfering in this stage of a child's life. I can't imagine what would have been the result if I had been screened and medicated at this stage of my development and being denied the ability to develop the skills that I use every day.

Our future generation is at the mercy of your decision. Please consider what is to be gained or lost by your decision.

Thank you.