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## Productivity Commission

### Inquiry into Mental Health

*This document includes comments received after the Inquiry draft report was released, up until 27 March 2020, for which the submitter gave their approval for use of their comment by the Commission. Some comments have been edited to remove information which the Commission considered could enable identification of the submitter or a non-public third party individual.*

*The Commission notes that a number of comments below appear to have relied on incorrect and misleading public statements made about the Inquiry draft recommendation on the social and emotional wellbeing of young children. A letter of correction has been sent by the Commission to the party issuing the misleading information and this letter is available on the Inquiry website.*

### Single focus on early childhood development

1.	I think that screening of 0 -3 year olds for "mental illness" by questions that any one of us could have answered yes to is ludicrous. Where is the science to back it up???? Stop this insanity!!
2.	If these measures advertised are brought into effect it will cost you far more than you think. That cost will not only come from the obvious litigation that will develop from attacking children with unproven methods but also the things you in high places are playing ignorant off. The now world wide epidemic of Akathisia, the direct creation of Psychiatry and it's drugs will not be able to be kept in the box as you have quite famously done so far. You do this to our children you best by prepared to stand by your decision because there will be no running away after. And suicide, what a bloody joke. Psychiatry is creating suicide, homicide, violence including domestic, addiction and so much more. This is not some upset person's rant. This is documented fact that I and many can present if you are unaware and that's a very scary thought if you are not and your the people making this extremely dangerous choice about our children's future. I survived but it cost me decades but get this clear, I have medical training and it was impossible for me to get a hearing. A grown educated man and I had to escape to survive, WHAT CHANCE DOES A CHILD HAVE? You already have had children as young as 7 suiciding because they were forced from their previous ADD medication onto a antipsychotic type drug because people like yourself think you know better. You will have suicides far younger than that if you do not take these things seriously. Psychiatry has not scientific basis and doesn't fit in any evidence based world. You will not trick people into thinking it is a acceptance practice because you put in the same building as a Neurological practice that is scientifically based. How stupid do you think we are and how quite do you think we will be as you play these games with children. Best you sort the fact and fiction, the feel good and needs. Until you can say you have it right with the adults, I suggest you take a big step back before playing

	games with our kids. And you are far from getting it right right now. You have real problems, do not make them our children's.
3.	This program is not needed and is in itself quite insane. Seriously how is this ok? Its like babies , children adults can no longer be an individual. Screening and drugging of children at any age is not the answer.
4.	I am against the screening for mental illness of toddlers and children. As society, we need to go back on giving a traditional education including "Civil course", teaching the basic law in our communities and teaching religions courses, to give to children a better understanding and to learn to respect one another. Sex education should be done by parents only. It is a great concern nowadays on what is happening in this area. Presently, the world is going mad and it is hard for some children and adults not to go mental. The government needs to stop urgently those non sens when a minority is asking for something and they press and press until they get it even when the majority is against it initially. And then our society is changed in a worse way. There is a need to go back to basic and have a better control on what information children get at the baby care center, pre-school and school. Teachers and parents should work on issue on one to one basis, calmly and openly when a situation arise with a child. If the school and parental education is right, it should not be that many issues and if it is handle properly, this issue should be resolved in an appropriate manner, for the child, teacher and parent. In the worse case scenario, if a child needs help with medicine it is up to the parent to seek help from a GP. Use of anti depressant is actually a big mistake for a child and for adults. A good healthy play and exercise outside for children, relaxation and meditation for adults are very good exercise for the mind. Our system, paper work and law needs to be simplified urgently. Media needs to be controlled more as they are adding in some circumstances to mental health issue within our society. Some films and internet materials should be censored.
5.	Despite the billions spent on psychiatric services in Australia each year, psychiatry hasn't worked. If it did, we would have a well and happy population by now. Psychiatric drugs are mind altering and have extremely negative side effects. I have seen this myself in my family members who have been on psychiatric drugs - they become zombies. How does this help Australia's future productivity? The "symptoms" that all 0-3 year olds display are completely normal. It's a part of being a child. Regarding screening, the child would have no say in this. The parents would have no say in this. Why should our Government have the right to demand screening for mental health for our children at any age? The Government's job is to provide essential services to the Australian population - services such as clean air, water, health, education and roads. Look at what really causes children to play up and provide better physical services such as physical health services and education that will keep children engaged and learning.
6.	I object to screening 0 - 3 yr old children for mental illness or emerging mental illness. This is blatant recruiting for more psychiatric drug consumers. Will parents who refuse to allow their 3 yr old to take antipsychotics lose custody of their child? There are adults who cannot get a prescription for ADHD drugs but a hyperactive

	2 yr old can? How does a 1 yr old say antidepressants make me feel depressed and suicidal? If you don't have a mental illness a psychiatrist can give you one.
7.	I would like to know how you 'assess' a newborn baby or even a 1 to 3 year old? Their brains are not fully formed so why would you give them a harmful drug to fix their brain? What kind of standard would you even use? If you make this legal I will move my family to another country.
8.	While medical disease can be screened for and verified, there are no valid tests to confirm any psychiatric diagnosis. The screening questions asked are so subjective that any child could be at risk of being labelled mentally ill and potentially recommended for a prescription of psychiatric drugs. Symptoms for so called psychiatric disorders for 0 to 3 year olds include: irregular feeding, difficulty sleeping, whining, crying, temper tantrums, shyness and hyperactivity. It is proposed that maternal and child nurses in community health services expand the current physical checks being done to include behavioural screening. The nurses will refer for "final diagnosis," which will also be based on a subjective checklist. Psychiatry is a pseudo science. It is baseless and it's true purpose has a covert destructive motive all in the name of "Help" This is an industry that has a shocking history why it's still funded and advocated I'll never know. Psychiatry and all it's entities including psychotropic drugs ECT etc should be wiped off the face of this earth
9.	Please do not let children be drugged or screened. It's ridiculous to assume that they can be predicted when no mental illnesses are cured anyway- many just drugged and that's considered handled - no cures !!!
10.	I am a mother of 2 teenage girls and recently a grandmother of a 2 month year old. I am very concerned about proposals to introduce mental health screening of 0-3 year old's. There appears to be an agenda by the field of psychiatry or the leading psychiatrists in this country to implement mental health screening in just about every facet of life. School, work, aged care and on and on. Now they are targeting the most vulnerable sector of the population. The psychiatric profession is trying to make teachers, nurses, community health workers and even employers, observe people for signs of mental illness so that referrals will take place and prescriptions will be written. Psychiatry claims that mental illness is a physical disorder such as a chemical imbalance in the brain, and they treat the illness with physical means, such as electro shock and/or drugs, however the diagnoses of mental illness is never via any physical test such as a blood test or brain scan. This doesn't make sense does it? They use a checklist of subjective behaviours to decide whether someone has a mental illness. To make this worse, the treatments (shock and drugs) are extremely dangerous and harmful. The side effects and adverse reactions are well known and have been reported on in the media for years. It is clear to see that the intention to label and drug kids (and adults) who are having a hard time as "mentally ill" is a money making exercise for all concerned. Not only do they want to label people as having a "mental illness", they now want to label people as "likely to get" a "mental illness". Let's give you drugs now just in case you get mentally ill. This is really going to far. When a women has a child, especially her

	<p>first, it can be tough going. You aren't sleeping, you are dealing with a new born baby who is crying all the time etc. To have a community health nurse ask a bunch of questions like: "is the baby sleeping" or "does the baby cry when you leave", or "is the baby feeding correctly" etc, and then turn this into a diagnosis of mental illness is ridiculous. If these guidelines get passed there will be thousands of babies labelled and drugged. It's scary to think that many of the future adults, leaders and politicians of this country are going to have been on psychiatric drugs from the age of 0 or 1 or 2. Please do not allow this proposal to go ahead. Kids deserve the right to grow up drug free. If someone over the age of 18 decides they want to be tested for mental illness and they are willing to go along with such a non-scientific process to undoubtedly end up with a prescription (and if they're really unlucky some zaps of electricity to the head), then that is their prerogative. Children should be loved and protected and given the chance to grow and develop at their own rate without being inspected and judged and potentially given a label that will stick with them most of their life. Thank you.</p>
11.	<p>I am really concerned re Screening children and drugging them. Children are Normal when they are crying or upset when they can't get what they want . Isn't it happening to you and all of us ?? Or upset when watching or listen to quarrel parents ?? But drugging and labeling them as a mentally problem !!! This is not right . Australia is the best place to live in and now now we will be turned into drug community, HONESTLY WHO IS MAKING ALL THESE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS . I hope and pray that who ever make the decision are not the share holder of this crazy idea for drugging children or anyone . This generation is our future ! Please look and see for your self before making destructive decisions for our beautiful country and destroying our future generations.</p>
12.	<p>It is obvious someone has stocks in this, as all things listed can and do change from day to day. It's common knowledge that these "issues" change with a child's development, and in this age bracket it is in constant change. How can anyone possibly justify medicating for such things without taking in the actual severity of it and all factors. As a parent of two kids as well as someone who has worked with kids AND someone with permanent mental health illness, I find this very distressing. Our medical system can't handle anything as it is that doesn't meet text book standards, and now considering letting them text book this and give heavy medication is scary. Bluntly its wrong and I will be fighting meds every step of the way for my children!</p>
13.	<p>I think that screening of 0 -3 year olds for "mental illness" by questions that any one of us could have answered yes to is ludicrous. Where is the science to back it up???? Stop this insanity!!</p>
14.	<p>If these measures advertised are brought into effect it will cost you far more than you think. That cost will not only come from the obvious litigation that will develop from attacking children with unproven methods but also the things you in high places are playing ignorant off. The now world wide epidemic of Akathisia, the direct creation of Psychiatry and it's drugs will not be able to be kept in the box as you have quite famously done so far. You do this to our children you best by</p>

	<p>prepared to stand by your decision because there will be no running away after. And suicide, what a bloody joke. Psychiatry is creating suicide, homicide, violence including domestic, addiction and so much more. This is not some upset person's rant. This is documented fact that I and many can present if you are unaware and that's a very scary thought if you are not and your the people making this extremely dangerous choice about our children's future. I survived but it cost me decades but get this clear, I have medical training and it was impossible for me to get a hearing. A grown educated man and I had to escape to survive, WHAT CHANCE DOES A CHILD HAVE? You already have had children as young as 7 suiciding because they were forced from their previous ADD medication onto a antipsychotic type drug because people like yourself think you know better. You will have suicides far younger than that if you do not take these things seriously. Psychiatry has not scientific basis and doesn't fit in any evidence based world. You will not trick people into thinking it is a acceptance practice because you put in the same building as a Neurological practice that is scientifically based. How stupid do you think we are and how quite do you think we will be as you play these games with children. Best you sort the fact and fiction, the feel good and needs. Until you can say you have it right with the adults, I suggest you take a big step back before playing games with our kids. And you are far from getting it right right now. You have real problems, do not make them our children's.</p>
15.	<p>This program is not needed and is in itself quite insane. Seriously how is this ok? Its like babies , children adults can no longer be an individual. Screening and drugging of children at any age is not the answer.</p>
16.	<p>I am against the screening for mental illness of toddlers and children. As society, we need to go back on giving a traditional education including "Civil course", teaching the basic law in our communities and teaching religions courses, to give to children a better understanding and to learn to respect one another. Sex education should be done by parents only. It is a great concern nowadays on what is happening in this area. Presently, the world is going mad and it is hard for some children and adults not to go mental. The government needs to stop urgently those non sens when a minority is asking for something and they press and press until they get it even when the majority is against it initially. And then our society is changed in a worse way. There is a need to go back to basic and have a better control on what information children get at the baby care center, pre-school and school. Teachers and parents should work on issue on one to one basis, calmly and openly when a situation arise with a child. If the school and parental education is right, it should not be that many issues and if it is handle properly, this issue should be resolved in an appropriate manner, for the child, teacher and parent. In the worse case scenario, if a child needs help with medicine it is up to the parent to seek help from a GP. Use of anti depressant is actually a big mistake for a child and for adults. A good healthy play and exercise outside for children, relaxation and meditation for adults are very good exercise for the mind. Our system, paper work and law needs to be simplified urgently. Media needs to be controlled more as they are adding in some circumstances to mental health issue within our society. Some films and internet materials should be censored.</p>

17.	63 percent of all children in QLD have mental health and wellbeing issues by grade 3. Push down model of education plays a huge role along with- helicoptere4 parenting, rights to a childhood - free time to play, negotiate conflict, work as a team, self reflect, play on the streets - we used to go out after breakfast and come home wh3n the lights came on - you don't see children anymore - scheduled extra curricular activities, aren't able to leave 3 metres from their back door due to concerns children will be harmed and no time to spend time in nature play - mindfulness within its self- time in nature. Children need to build resilience, grit and determination and plenty of free play periods. Children need to negotiate risk, climb a tree, work things out. W3 run a forest school concept within our kindergarten programs - so many benefits for each and every child. Give childhood back, promote lplay based programs, sto1p Kaplan and Push down model of factory education. Emp1hasisr time for families to be together . Sto1p screen time for children - this is a major isdue
18.	There is a great deal of research to support perinatal and infant mental health to significantly reduce the burden of mental illness for later life. More services and information need to be provided to families in pregnancy and infancy to provide the secure foundation for life.
19.	I was pleased to see that Australia’s Productivity Commission was conducting an Inquiry into mental health, as statistics show that even with rising expenditure, mental health problems in Australia have not been improved, and I hoped we would see some positive changes, away from some of the more brutal Psychiatric practices of the past. However, as a mother of three adult children and a teacher with more than twenty- five year’s teaching experience, I wish to register my concern about the proposed draft to screen 0 to 3 year old children for Mental Illness. We do not need more drugging of our children based on very subjective screening. Australia already has very high rate of drugging children based on arbitrary lists of questions and even Psychiatrists admit that there are no medical tests to confirm psychiatric diagnosis. In 2017/2018 there were 101,174 children under the age of 17 on antidepressants; a 34% increase in just 5 years. Due to immense public criticism, screening of three -year olds was scrapped in 2015. Now it is proposed to reintroduce it and turn Early Childhood Centres and Schools into mental health clinics; to not only label very young children as mentally ill, but also screen for “emerging mental illness”, again based only on arbitrary data. There is no doubt that adults and children get depressed or anxious at times and we want these people to be helped. They should be given proper medical tests to diagnose and treat any underlying physical problems and humane and holistic care that improves their condition. The statistics show that increased drugging only adds to problems of addiction and suicide. Let’s spend our tax- payer dollars on providing safe havens where people who do have problems can get workable solutions and get rid of any compulsory screening and consequent drugging of children.
20.	Another pill, another ill. Let kids be kids. My twin sons were prescribed Ritalin 35 years ago because they were supposed to be "hyperactive," i declined, they were just 2 boys full of life NOT hyperactive needing to be sedated. My advice to parents proceed with caution. Also parents need to interact more with their children instead

	of relying on tv and tablets to keep them amused. Reading stories to young children and playing good old fashioned games is a step.in the right direction. Thank you
21.	Regarding the idea of screening 0-3 year olds for mental health issues based on a subjective checklist that any child can fall into is shocking. And not only that the “solution” is psychiatric medication that have side effects, which alone should be enough to ban them from any use. Why woul any parent after reading an instruction leaflet with these kinds of medications and see the side effects, allow their new born or toddler to be subjected to that? This is not help. This is harming in the name of help. Disgusting.
22.	This is not going to contain alternatives or research to the contrary but I need to say it. No child should be subject to an inane and arbitrary checklist that would, 98% of the time, be a formality to doping them up on harmful drugs that have been labeled as being unsafe for them. This should never be even passingly considered. Ever.
23.	I am a little shocked that actions could possibly be taken in the physical examination of very young children by unqualified personnel with regard to the area of mental health. When normal behavior exhibited by a very young child in response to circumstances other than mental health, can be acted on with possible use of drugs, this is a path that only jeopardises the future health of this child and their own ability to learn and adapt to environmental influences. It is a known fact that drugs used in this was have side effects and it is a high risk to put both the community and the child at risk if such side effects manifest then or later in life. I strenuously encourage caution in potentially drugging very young children before they have fully developed, the risks far outweigh any potential benefit.
24.	I am most concerned about the psychiatric screening for "emerging mental illness" on 0-3 year olds. The behaviours which are considered evidence of a mental illness are such commonplace child behaviour such as whining, crying, temper tantrums, sleeping with the light on. This is NORMAL behaviour for small children, which any parent could tell you. There is no scientific evidence being acted on here and the result will be an explosion of false diagnosis and over medication. Rather than giving the child potentially dangerous psychiatric drugs (the Australian Government has issued 67 pyschiatric drug warnings), it would be better to give parents ways of handling children. Like a short course on "how to handle a crying 3 year old" or a video collection of how other parents have handled the usual types of behaviour that 0-3 year olds exhibit.
25.	I am shocked that such a thing as psychiatric screening for "emerging mental illness" could be proposed. It is not a scientific evidence based test. A misdiagnosis could easily occur if the the person doing the screening thinks "this child looks like he might get a mental illness". There is no accurate, scientific test for this. Some of the behaviours which would be considered as "evidence" of mental illness are crying, sleeping with the light on, crying for an absent parent etc. These surely are not mental illnesses. They are the usual, normal behaviours of a child. One would be concerned if the child did not exhibit such normal reactions. I call on you to not

	<p>do psychiatric screening of 0 - 3 year olds for "emerging mental illness", simply because it is not an evidence based, scientifically based test. It will only result in drugging of children with heavy psychiatric drugs, which will result in children being over medicated and perhaps addicted to these drugs. They may never be active participants in society if this occurs and millions of dollars will have to be spent to rehabilitate them. As well as the possible ruin of the child's life &amp; future. I can see this psychiatric screening creating more problems than it could ever solve.</p>
26.	<p>As a Grandmother, Mother, Post Graduate in Productive Pedagogy, Registered Nurse, Teacher and Principal it has come to my attention there is an inquiry into Mental Health with a focus on proposed screening on 0 to 3 year olds.</p> <p>This proposal is alarming in regards to this program.</p> <p>From my personal experience I have observed that the program to screen 3 year olds was ineffectual and in fact almost every 3 year old child would fulfill the points on the checklist during some part of their early life. This list leaves the door open to interpretation and or bias.</p> <p>In my experience in the field of health, Teacher and parent, I have concerns for the actual mental health of our nation.</p> <p>Recently there has been more and more attention and Government spending on Mental Health however I observe a huge increase in people of all ages suffering from mental illness and not mental health. The emphasis of Government spending on failure and suicide education that gives a result of more failure and suicide is not money well spent. Let's not add to this statistic by labeling and medicating our babies with an emerging mental illness when they in fact have an underlying physical problem like colic or IBS etc. There needs to be more scientific testing for all mental illness just as there is for physical illnesses in order to isolate dietary, allergies or a physical illnesses like anaemia, or thyroid malfunction by a competent medical doctor not a communication health worker.</p> <p>The detrimental long term effect of prescribed medication to young children is unimaginable! The long term side effects of medication on the forming young brain is untested as yet! The companies that promote the screening of young children seldom disclose the side effects are often more concerned with profits than true care of the child.</p> <p>The long term impact on the Australian culture will be immeasurable and severely concerning to one and all.</p> <p>Please consider the long term impact of the current "mental health" trends and the actual results.</p>
27.	<p>I read with great concern that you are planning to expand mental health screening to 0-3 year olds which will of course lead to many of them being falsely labelled and put on very powerful mind-destroying and highly addictive drugs.</p> <p>Psychiatric diagnosis is purely subjective with no actual pathology to prove that any 'illness' actually exists. How can you agree to the senseless drugging of innocent defenceless babies and infants with no physical tests to show if anything is wrong? This proposal will only result in more ruined lives at the hand of psychiatry and more profits to the people advocating this monstrosity.</p>



28.	<p>I was horrified to read this report. Children from 0-3 being diagnosed with mental health issues and being prescribed drugs which could potentially harm them. They are far too young to be diagnosed. I have 3 sons who are now in their 20s. My middle son was diagnosed with ADD and anxiety when he was 12. He was prescribed Ritalin and this was the correct diagnosis and the correct medication. It would not have been such if he had been diagnosed any earlier. Yes these children and their families need help and support, but diagnosis at such an early age is definitely not the answer. Monitor them, help their families, give them the knowledge and resources to cope, support them. Don't do this to our future generations, the consequences will be catastrophic.</p>
29.	<p>To whom it may concern, I am very worried and concerned regarding the proposal to screen all children under the age of 3 that is a supposed preventative measure for mental illness. The diagnostic tools are not precise or scientific in any way and contain exclusively subjective analysis that would give massively variable outcomes. Many of these apparent "symptoms" are things I can say from my own observation are common in children, or could be symptoms of physical conditions and not mental at all - issues sleeping for example could be as simple as heart burn, food allergies, etc. Until such as time as a precise technology exists to definitively diagnose an illness, a screening seems not only to be an expensive waste of time - but more importantly, very dangerous to the infants who may be wrongly prescribed psychoactive medication. Psychiatry has a long way to go and should be held to the same sort of standard as other disciplines such as Engineering. We would not simply guess and hope in building bridges or buildings with thousands of lives at risk. With so many suicides and mass shootings now being linked to people who've suddenly come off or on psych drugs, there needs to be a higher standard. Psychiatry has proposed physical abuse, duress, electro-shock, psycho-surgery, and other very harmful "solutions" - I do hope this latest mistake with regard to infants in Australia is not allowed to take place</p>
30.	<p>I am concerned about the proposal to screen 0 - 3 year old children for mental illness or future mental illness. As mental illness is not an organic condition diagnosis can only be made on a subjective basis. Symptoms such as irregular feeding, difficulty sleeping, whining, crying, temper tantrums, shyness, sleeping with the light on and hyperactivity to mention a few can be attributed to almost any child and are normal behaviours In my experience as a parent of four and grand parent of five children I have seen such behaviours, which in time and with good parenting these behaviours improve. I am concerned at the number of children already medicated for behavioural problems and wonder if this proposal will facilitate even more children being prescribed drugs to control or modify behaviour Thank you for your attention to my comment</p>
31.	<p>We condemn the upcoming process of screening children below 3 years for mental health n prescribe them antidepressants n other drugs . Our community thinks that this will expose our babies to higher risks &amp; hence it should not be brought into practical use .</p>

32.	<p>What the screening of one to 3 years old for mental illness will lead to? is what should also be stated not just screening. If this means down the track the drugging of younger generations on mind altering drugs; it is not the answer and is not based in science. A New Zealand Psychologist : Julia Rucklige has done for more than a decade Blind trials on micronutrients and has conclusively demonstrated the link between mental illness; depression in individuals lacking proper nutrition. the symptoms of mental illness can be reversed without the use of mind altering drugs and the costs to society. "the surprisingly dramatic role of nutrition in mental health/Julia Rucklidge/TEDx Christchurch" Those studies are based on science and demonstrated results.</p>
33.	<p>Why are we drugging Infants with psychiatric drugs? Please stop!</p>
34.	<p>I wish to lodge my concern about the proposed "early screening" of 0-3 year old children for "mental illness" in Community Health Centres, Early Childhood Education Centres and/or schools and pre-schools. There is no evidence that a list of subjective screening questions provides a valid diagnosis of "mental illness" or "emerging mental illness", especially when the questions refer to normal childhood behaviours such as irregular feeding, whining, difficulty sleeping and temper tantrums. It is not the job of health nurses, teachers or kindergarten staff to identify behavioural issues that classify as "mental health illness". This is not even possible through any proven scientific diagnostic method by a psychiatrist. Diagnosis, even by these professionals, using the DSM, is objective. I am concerned that the proposed early screening of young children, using normal childhood behaviours as a screening tool, will lead to increasing numbers of our young children being medicated. Adult mental health illness has already become a field dominated by medication, and counselling support seems to have already taken a back seat, not that GP's can prescribe psychotropic medication in one visit. There is evidence that shows that children and adults on some psychotropic medication have an increased risk of suicide, mania and aggressive tendencies. In a world where children are exposed to stimulation from noise, electronic devices, vehicles, WiFi etc, at a level not experienced in society even 50 years ago, I do not see the answer to early childhood behavioural issues as being a medication. There is so little research into what our over stimulating world is doing to our very young - babies in and out of the womb, and young children. This is the segment of the population with rapidly developing nervous systems., that are required to take in and process information and stimulus on a level that would have felt like overload to any person born 100 years ago. Mental health "screening" should not lead to increased use of medication. Yet, this is what will undoubtedly eventuate. Instead, holistic approaches, such as recommendations on diet, nutrition, sufficient sleep, limiting exposure to electronic devices, sufficient time spent outside, exercise, quiet time/meditation and so on should be the primary intervention, if one is needed at all, for childhood behaviours that are normal to young developing children. Existing money should be spent working towards non drug-orientated support and treatment - for children and adults, so that outcomes that support lifetime of improved mental health are the result - instead of lifetimes rotating from one diagnosis to the next, and one medication (or very often multiple medications) to the next. In Australia right now, we have the second highest rate of antidepressant</p>

	use in the world - 60% more than 10 years ago. A huge budget from the government supports this massive industry - yet results are far from positive.
35.	Submitting three year olds to mental health screening is literally insane. There children they haven't formed habits or even communication techniques yet. What are you thinking?
36.	I find it very sad indeed that thousands of children each year between the ages of 2-6 years old are prescribed psychiatric drugs. Often, these innocent children are not tested for allergies, environmental stresses or malnutrition. I taught a child who was taking medication for ADHD. I asked him how it affected him. This child said, 'I feel so confused all the time. I don't play up any more because I'm too confused to think. ' In teaching, I observed an escalating number of children becoming anxious, lacking attention, frustrated and emotional in the class room. In sitting down to hear them read, I discovered that those who were not doing well, could not read by sounding out words and they could not memorise words like other children. In teaching them to read phonetically, their frustrations fell away. That child who had been drugged into overwhelming confusion, need only have been taught to read properly. We need to stop drugging innocent children and help them with healthy remedies that encourage strength and growth. Why are psychiatry's solutions that cripple our children mentally and physically taken on board sweepingly without inspection? We need to apply benevolence not uncaring expedience when it comes to our children - our future civilisation.
37.	I have briefly read this draft report and my interest was mainly drawn to section 17 – Interventions in early childhood and school education. On the first page of Section 17 the report states how successful intervention requires .... As a priority: expanded social and emotional wellbeing aspects of routine health checks in pregnancy and early childhood. The report also states the following: Most infants aged 0–3 years attend regular physical development checks offered by community health services. These checks often include some screening for mental health concerns of the primary care giver (usually the mother). But additional screening and support tools can be valuable in prevention of mental illness or early intervention where it is required. What is meant by additional screening and support tools can be valuable in prevention of mental illness? Is this paragraph referring to the mother or the child? Furthermore, the report states in section 17.1 - Mental health and wellbeing in the first three years of life: The definition of infant mental health is still a matter of debate among experts, although more formalised approaches to diagnosis and treatment are being developed and implemented. I believe the above paragraphs in the report communicate that we are already diagnosing our children from the ages of 0 to 3 for mental health. How is this possible? From my pure observation, children at this age can throw many tantrums, act undesirable (especially when they have eaten too much sugar), and are not happy children at all when they haven't had a good night's sleep and then of course there is the childhood illnesses that have the effect of making the child feel so unwell they are no longer acting "normal" mentally. What a child needs at this age is to get proper sleep, which will occur by eating properly and exercising throughout the day and not sitting in front of a tv or computer screen for so many

	<p>hours per day. From my pure observation and nothing else, diet has a lot to answer for in the way children behave and in the way they feel. Bad diet will definitely affect their behaviour and their sleeping habits. I have never met a child from the ages of 0 to 3 that didn't display some kind of non-optimum behaviour, such as throwing tantrums, etc.. They are young and that's what they do. For any parent reading this, I'm sure you would agree. In my opinion, this behaviour is normal. In closing, I think that early intervention to handle mental illness in the 0-3 year old age bracket will not produce any results. It will waste the Government's time, the doctor's time and will waste taxpayer's money. It will also upset a mother OR father as they will then stress about whether their child is "normal" or not. Children at this age are merely young children. We need to let them be children. There is no need to run a diagnosis on their mental health. Sincerely yours</p>
38.	<p>Dear Productivity Commissioners In the words of a young person; <b>HOW DARE YOU!</b> The "mental health experts" have failed us miserably despite receiving enormous amounts of public funding over several decades. They have failed. They have squandered tax payer's money and not served us well. Mental health problems of Australians have, according to them, increased NOT decreased! Where is our ROI? I want my money back. <b>GET IT!</b> AND, now they want even more money/funding and greater reach into our lives??? <b>THIS</b> has to be the greatest sham and hoax and violation of Human Rights ever perpetrated on us, the people, ever, in our history. Let's say I have a snail problem in my garden. I use snail eradicator A. After a while I have more snails so I increase the dose to A++. <b>WOW</b> more snails? Boy, I must need more so I increase to A+++ and B (a whoopee-do new cure for snails, let's try electrocuting the snails...)! <b>YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING STOP IT NOW!!!!!!</b> What is screening 0-3 year olds? How is this to be done? Who is to do it? The nut cases we call Psychiatrists, Psychologists and counselors? Who stands to profit most off this? Big Pharma? Who screens the screeners? How dare anyone presume that little children have potential mental illness? Based on what criteria exactly? Then what? Put them on a pathway to drugs? How dare you hoodwink loving parents into giving their babes mind altering "medication". Addictive psychotropic drugs! Would you give your kid Cocain? Heroin? Cannabis? Hash? Ice? <b>READ THE SMALL PRINT</b> on the side effects of the "medicine". Note the "can cause aggression, tendency to suicide" etc. not to mention the problems to the body, heart, kidneys and liver! <b>HOW DARE YOU!</b> Haven't the "authorities" done enough to ruin our society with this mental health farce. It reeks to high heaven of fraud and mind control. I will fight this travesty, this violation of Human Rights to the end of my life.</p>
39.	<p>Dear commissioner Screening 0-3 year olds for mental health and potential mental health issues using a list of arbitrary questions is not possible. Potentially children will be diagnosed as having a mental illness based on such things as irregular feeding, difficulty sleeping, whining, crying, temper tantrums, shyness, sleeping with the light on and hyper activity! Children get "crabby" when tired and hungry! From this arbitrary screening I gather they will be prescribed medication. In other words they will be put on drugs. In New Zealand this behavioural screening has resulted in 140% rise of 4 year olds on antidepressants! Figures show an increase in suicides amongst those who are on these drugs. Can it be that the drugs are</p>

	<p>linked to the increase in the problem. The mental health industry continually complains they are underfunded despite a huge increase in spending by Governments over the past 6 years. This Industry has not produced positive results despite receiving billions of taxpayers money. 1 in 10 Australians are on Antidepressants already and rising. This is not proof of success it is proof of their failure. Before more money is wasted on these dangerous practices I would want to see results in decreasing not rising statistics. This is surely a "new" way of putting people on the pathway to being prescribed psychotropic drugs which have known side effects such as suicidal tendencies and aggression. What is needed is a good diet, sufficient sleep and exercise, love and care. Proper medical diagnosis for underlying physical conditions that may be the cause of upset. Absolutely this must not go ahead.</p>
40.	<p>Hi there, Im writing to you because I am a really concerned parent because of the current system of drugging people and taking away of human rights. It is so dangerous to give a baby drugs to treat mental illness or as a preventative measure when these babies are still developing. Babies will cry, be irritable, not sleep etc and to imply that that is mental illness is preposterous. We are living in a society where drugging is becoming more and more as a solution, leading to drug dependent people and criminal society. There is (and has never been) no testing done to prove mental illness and there are more deaths and suicides associated with pharmaceutical drugs. This is ruining tomorrows future and its all about the big bucks, not about you or I and our well being. Truth does prevail and people are waking up, I urge you to not go down this road and think of the families who have been victim to watching their kids, families and friends be abused by the mental health system. Drugging babies and making it mandatory is a violation of human rights and forcing parents to surrender their rights is dictatorship. People will get angry if this doesnt stop and people are fighting this cause everyday and wont stop until people are held accountable for their actions and the truth will come out. Think of your own families and if you'd allow everything in the system to be done to you or your kids.</p>
41.	<p>I am appalled and strongly disagree with the proposal to screen 0-3 year olds for Mental Illness. This could lead to drugging without consent and have a permanent deleterious effect of the physical and mental health and well-being of these individuals.</p>
42.	<p>I do not want 0-3 year olds being screened for mental illness. I am an expecting mother and it should be my choice whether my child is screened. I don't agree with the screening process and it is a violation of my human rights to not have a choice in whether my child is screened or not.</p>
43.	<p>Childhood is not a mental disorder or disease. Prescribing children psych medication is inhumane and highly unethical. Instead, children mentally struggling with their development stage require the basics to be fully implemented daily; sufficient sleep, well fed with nourishing food without toxins, physical exercise, learning and education, a safe, loving, quiet, Nurturing and protective environment. Guardians that are emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually</p>

	healthy. Guardians that have understanding. We are making it far more complicated than it really needs to be.
44.	I don't believe that we should implement a system of labelling children with mental illnesses. I believe that full consent should be given by both parents before any screening takes place. I also believe that a child has rights and is entitled to not be labelled with mental illness. Also parents should be made aware of future ramifications of a person (child or otherwise) being diagnosed with a mental disorder, ie limited occupation opportunities in the future etc.
45.	There is no need to have babies-infants from age 0-3 to be screened for mental health or for support service, what can be discerned from a baby or a small child that cannot communicate/nor would understand their mental/emotional faculties. Psychiatrist, psychologist, and psychotherapist should not be the only experts in relation to one's mental health and a whole other set of factors should also be considered including physiological/medical etc. I please ask you to seriously reconsider and yet even better to cancel this approach and potential series of bills being made in law and taken in to action
46.	I'm extremely against drugging children (let alone human beings) for mental health issues. Suppressing a child with a chemical release does not address the core root of the problem that is causing mental duress.
47.	I am concerned about the new proposed draft on screening kids from ages 0 to 3. This isn't right and should not be allowed. It means that children as early as 0 to 3 are at a risk of psychiatric dragging. Children undergo change and probably only stabilise after adolescence so to drag them early or label them at that age is just not right and destorys their future once they are hooked onto these psychiatric drugs. Please as a concerned mother, this draft should not go through and approved.
48.	As an Office Manager of a School who works with you children daily, I truly do not understand how you will know or test 0-3 children for mental illness. I don't agree this type of test would be beneficial and would do more harm than help and I would like to ensure no such tests are ever conducted and not necessary. Please stop this and only use good proven workable solutions.
49.	I am extremely concerned to hear about the proposed mental health screening of children 0-3. As a parent and a teacher I am strongly opposed to this. The proposal puts too much responsibility in the hands of the Child health nurse and I am concerned that this will lead to subjective diagnoses and over-medication of infants. Parents and teachers of children who are showing signs of mental illness already have avenues to raise these concerns. If a child as young as 3 is depressed I would suggest larger issues are at play within the family and these need to be addressed rather than simply medicating the child. There is research to suggest that children that are medicated grow up to be adults who struggle long term with their mental health and are often suicidal. This in itself is reason to be very cautious and try every other avenue of health care including diet before medicating a child

50.	<p>In this comment I'll cover 2 areas: 1. My Objections to the proposed program to screen new born babies, babies and toddlers , 0-3 years for 'mental illness: Psychiatrists want to use the same guidelines as those used in the dumped in 2015 - Healthy Kids Check to screen 3 &amp; 4yr olds before they go to preschool. (p. 658 of PCDR, Vol. 2) - much to the relief of the DSM – IV Task Force Chair, Allen Frances; as well as two thirds of GPs at the time..(The medical Observer's survey of GPs in 2012) &amp; numerous ethical Psychiatrists, including Child psychiatrist Dr Jon Jureidini (Uni of Adelaide). In the 1970s Psychiatrists routinely labelled people as mentally ill without comprehensive competent checks for underlying physiological causes. The explanation of 'a chemical imbalance in the brain' was routinely used. However, there was no medical test to establish the existence of 'a chemical imbalance in the brain', and hence no test was given. Then, as now, it was easy for Robin Winkler at the uni of WA to make a laughing stock of the Psychiatric Industry by repeating David Rosenhan's famous experiment On Being Sane in Insane Places. After two (mentally healthy) psychology students were admitted to a Psychiatric Unit., they behaved normally and made observations about their care provided. But wait! Winkler's experiment is still relevant! He also conducted a pseudo-patient experiment with general practitioners; students visited them and presented symptoms of depression. The outcome was that in general, discussions between physicians and pseudo-patients were short, no referrals were organised, and all received prescriptions. Fast forward 50 years to 2020 and little has changed in day-to-day practice. 'A chemical imbalance in the brain' is still routinely used. And still no medical test to establish existence of 'a chemical imbalance'. Pity the 0 - 3 year olds and their parents with children who may be experiencing a distressed homelife, insufficient food, allergies &amp; food sensitivities or simply worms. (Diagnostic Elimination Diet Handbook Volume 1 - RPAH Dietary Unit). 2. Absence of Transparency and Accountability. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare have reported that \$534 million was spent on psychiatric drugs in 2017 and 2018. Where are the results of this expenditure that demonstrate reduced Mental Illness?</p>
51.	<p>I find it abhorrent that they want to give drugs to 0-3 year old. I looked up the types of drugs and some of the side effects are horrific! I look at me nieces and nephews and think what would happen to them. They are so bright with life and willing to give so much love and attention. Why do they want to kill this with drugs? Let them enjoy growing up and let the family not have to worry about this. Is it really necessary. I know from personal experience that these type of drugs are not effective. I suffered from a lot of anxiety and was given xanax and effexor. After being on these for a few years, i felt worse. It was harder to stay focused and I felt my anxiety had increased. I chose to come off of these and since then, have improved with less anxiety and less worry. I have also lost the numb feeling that came with the drugs. I don't feel so detached. It's just horrible to think of a young child, just born and finding their way, to be given such drugs! Let them grow and if later on it's needed then ok. There is a burden on the mental health system and I see a lot of money being given to this area. I just don't see any results or people getting better. I know people who have been on medication for a long time, they were once working, but now they are on a disabled pension (they're only in there</p>

	<p>50's) and won't work again but are on benefits. They tell me that they feel the drugs contributed to this as they felt less and less energetic and willing to go and work and that their symptoms got worse as time went on with the drugs being a mask and making them numb. Why do we want to do this to young children is beyond me?!?!?!? I question those pushing this idea as to why? Where is the evidence. I remember a while back this idea being touted in the news but the backlash from psychiatrists as well as the general public was overwhelming. What's changed to make it ok now? I ask you, the person reading this - a young child, just born - put on mind altering drugs. These drugs are not a light issue. A lot of the school shootings in America were on medication. Some of the incidents in Melbourne were on medication. Is it really the answer? I've heard that a bad diet can make a person feel depressed and make children irritable a fidgety from too much sugar. Shouldn't we be looking at this first, then make the decision. But my heart breaks at the thought of 0-3 year olds being given drugs. Please do not do this!!!</p>
52.	<p>I have only recently become aware of the content of the Commission's draft report on mental health so am restricting my response to a comment. I have been involved in WHS and OHS workplace training and consulting to companies and government for over 20 years and consider that the Commission does not have an easy task to deal with. I am concerned about the Commission's draft recommendation about testing of young children 0-3 years. With respect, I suggest that you reconsider any advice you may have received about it. If you are testing children (or anyone) you must have a testing system that is foolproof that always comes up with the correct conclusion. If an infallible testing system for 0-3 years old children is not available then I suggest that you recommend that one be devised and not adopted until it is proven to be reliable. Obviously taking action based on a wrong conclusion can be quite damaging.</p>
53.	<p>The brain is in development stages for several years, and this delicate brain tissue should not be subjected to drugs or pharmaceuticals at this early age unless to save a life.</p>
54.	<p>Dear Commissioners, I am writing to you as a concerned Australian Citizen about the proposed 'social and emotional wellbeing checks' on babies and young children from 0-3 years of age. As a father of two adult children I know that how a child does in their early life depends greatly on the stable family home filled with love and respect for each other. What concerns me as a parent, carer of older parents and future grandchildren is the staggering increase in prescribed medication of anti-depressants to people over the last ten years. Now this proposal before the Productivity Commission opens the door to the medication of babies from a very early age. Whilst there has been an increase in prescribed anti-depressants, there has not been a corresponding decrease in the suicide rates in Australia and as it has been well documented many of those people who took their own lives were on anti-depressants. Statistically the prescribing of anti-depressants has proven to be a failure, I ask then why would we even consider giving them to our very young. As I have already commented above, I believe the environment people live in has the greatest impact on the mental health of the individual and no amount of medication will address that. I feel blessed that I grew up in the 1960's</p>



	<p>as a young child. There was upsets in my family from time to time, but we learnt to handle life by living it and experiencing the pain and joy as it was dealt. We are not allowing our young to learn how to handle life and we are all too eager to take a person's pain away by isolating the 'mean' person or offering anti-depressants to handle their anxiety. I was once told a story of a survivor of a German concentration camp who said there was never any anxiety in the camps because there were always too busy trying to survive. We do our young no favours by trying to put there lives in cotton wool and taking their pain away. I would suggest that this commission would do better to promote ways to teach people how to better handle life, make safer communities that are free from drugs and crime and let people contribute in a positive way to make a better life for them self, their families and others. Thank you</p>
55.	<p>In regards to the drugging of children at the ages of 0-3 is a bit alarming as, we as adults , do we really have the right to prescribe young children with medication from a medical viewpoint, or under the guise of mental health. I don't think this is correct, how do we know if any child has some emotional issues and the use of drugs or drugging isn't making it worse, is this proven to work or are we taking the advises from a select few who have a vested interests in the dummying down of the populace. And with the use of our young progeny as there experimental play things. Please promote the promise the this treatment from past studies is factually efficient. Otherwise I doubt a child with no power of choice actually has a voice to decide for oneself, but we are killing and deciding for them, any rational. So I object heavily to this emotional sterile use to disempower our future minds. So the drugging of young children should not be permitted. Maybe let the practitioners use some of there medications themselves if it is so helpful</p>
56.	<p>I don't agree with children aged 0-3 years old being assessed for their mental health and drugs prescribed for any behaviour issues. I feel that children can be adversely affected by medication at this age and permanently damaged.</p>
57.	<p>I strongly oppose the screening of babies and kids going through as it is totally unnecessary and actually harmful as these drugs that could be administered to babies and kids are actually harmful (see list of side effects for full details of each drug). These kids and babies are our future and if we do not take care of them probably then we are really destroying their and our future. It would be far better to put in a plan that aids in the health of pregnant mothers and babies which involves good nutrition and the supplementation to nurture their health.</p>
58.	<p>Screening of 0 - 3 yr old children for potential mental illnesses in order to prescribe them psychiatric medication before mental illness strikes is insanity. Any person who supposes such an idea is psychotic. I propose all newborns be immunized against mental illnesses by giving them a combination of psychiatric drugs.</p>
59.	<p><b>DO NOT DRUG OUR CHILDREN</b></p>

60.	Don't let Big Pharma brainwash & lobby you into behavioural screening of children. There is sufficient & adequate screening already covered by the DSM-V. Keep Big Pharma & their lobbyists out of the discussion!
61.	As a mother of a child who had difficulties when young I am absolutely opposed to screening young children for mental health problems . They are not yet literate enough to describe what may be upsetting them so mental health problems are difficult to diagnose . In my son's case so called behaviour problems were actually physical . He could not tell us that until many years later . My own experience is not unique . I found similar outcomes talking to other parents . Children taken off sugar and red cordial improved markedly . I cannot see that drugging children so young as is a suggested recommendation has any benefit for them . Quite the contrary . It would stunt their awareness of the world and ability to learn . For the sake of our children , the resources need to go into improved physical diagnosis in order to determine and fix underlying causes
62.	I am horrified to think that this could go ahead. It is a ploy to get young children on psychiatric medication and set them up for a lifetime of use and abuse.. Life appears to be becoming a Disorder. Screening young children for psychiatric disorders is a cruel joke. Who is accountable
63.	I would like to make this submission to voice my opinion against the drugging of our young generation. I have, myself, 4 young grandchildren and could not even contemplate any one of them given a mental health drug. I believe no child needs to be treated this way, especially when at that age they are vulnerable to any outside influence. I would suggest it would be better to continue to nurture and work with a child to bring about a caring, safe home life and not to allow government sanctioned psychiatry to drug them and so alter their normal body chemistry. These young ones are our future generation. They are our future. We do not want a future generation of drugged individuals
64.	To be frank, I believe this action is a BIG no no. It is not possible to detect future mental illnesses at an early age, This seems like the movie Minority Report. Also drugging of children at such an early age with "proven mind altering drugs" is so wrong and it will 1. Destroy their mental well being and 2, Actually CREATE future mental issues.. I VEHEMENTLY DISAPPROVE OF THIS AND SO SHOULD YOU. Thank you
65.	Dear Commissioner, I believe it is absurd to place a new born child or indeed any child at least under 12 years of age on anti depressants. A child,s body is a complex chemical structure and needs time for it,s systems to adjust and fine tune themselves adapting to it,s surroundings. Time, love, care and support, coupled with correct nutrition and adequate sleep, a nurturing environment and lots of natural play, are most of the things a baby and child need. To interfere with this natural evolved cycle by introducing strong, toxic, unnatural chemicals into the child will no doubt have catastrophic results now and in the future. Please do not let vested interests and bad science win this debate.Thank you

66.	I am concerned regarding the logical research put into this screening submission. Natural remedies for anything are the best solution possible. These are babies and children, they haven't even started their life yet are being considered mind altering drugs. I do not believe drugs have helped anybody still to this day but have created long term problems for anybody taking them. Please don't allow this to happen, please, this is our future. We cannot do this to the future of mankind.
67.	I am concerned about the drugging of children and early screening - particularly when it affects young children - there are too many drugs being used and prescribed today - and there are too many companies making a lot of money from selling drugs. I am a parent and grandparent and hate seeing anyone sedated and squashed by taking any drug - and I hate the trap that young people can be caught in if they get caught up in this cycle. Drugs, both street drugs and medical drugs are probably the greatest problem in the world today
68.	I am quite concerned about this going a head as from what I have studied there is no evidence that the mental treatment works at all and that kids or people actually get better, I am also worried for normal child behaviours being looked at as not normal and kids being put onto drugs when not needed and causing more problems. I feel that more attention should be focused on study problems and solutions for study instead of putting kids on drugs due to mucking around or acting not interested in school studies due to not understanding what they are studying
69.	Please leave young children alone without any screening for mental health. This concept is based on pseudo-science & is a violation of basic human rights
70.	It's certainly disappointing to see that children aged between 0 - 3 have the potential to undergo psychiatric assessment and BE PUT ON DRUGS! By listing the following "traits" - Irregular feeding patterns, difficulty sleeping, whining, crying, calling for absent parent, temper tantrums, shyness and hyperactivity. All I see here is typical baby/ toddler behaviour. Children undergo a HUGE amount of physical and mental development from 0 to 3. Perhaps we should start educating parents better to deal with their children. To allow children to have their own personalities, let them learn how to communicate and find their own eating and sleeping patterns rather than to label them and have them conform to whatever the norms are "supposed" to be. Children are random, they are growing and learning. Let them just be themselves, that's the most joyful and interesting part of parenthood - watching personalities develop - not to squash or drug them.
71.	Workable and accountable programs which do not harm must be implemented. The idea of diagnosing babies and toddlers with future mental health issues is unacceptable and unreasonable. It is unthinkable and illogical to put a child or baby on a dangerous psychotropic drug just for ordinary infant normal behaviours which this system would want to take advantage of for its own economical advantage ...providing "medication" which are not helping but would impede the

	<p>childrens normal intellectual mental ability, These psychotropic drugs are dangerous and cause dangerous side effects which cause long term debilitation both physically and mentally and emotionally. I object wholeheartedly to this barbaric idea of 1, diagnosing infants in their vulnerability and making claims about their behaviour as needing to be put on medications ; dangerous psychotropic and powerful drugs. 2. having doctors, nurses, child care facilities, teachers or counsellors imbued with the powers of diagnosing our babies and children and Labelling them as problems. 3. The only problems that children exhibit are those that they reflect from their parents or because they are exhibiting fear and insecurity as a vulnerable child! This is perfectly natural in infants and toddlers and beyond. 4. This Proposal must not be allowed to be implemented . We cannot be drugging our babies</p>
72.	<p>Having had 5 children of my own, I know that all children are different. There is always a reason for any mis emotion they have. Normally it is nutritional. Not enough protein and veggies and good fats. Any screening can show things that are not true. It's just NOT needed. Drugs won't help. Let's put our money in more sports programs. Better taught subjects. More teachers to share the work load.</p>
73.	<p>I am very concern about our future If mental health approve that its OK to screen children and then will be given Physchiatric drug to babies. That's horrifying!!!</p>
74.	<p>Childhood is not a mental disorder. Children still learning the world , parents plus expressing themselves; can experience frustration. This is not a mental disorder; and never was. No drug will replace learning language , self expression, rules, cooperating with others. These are experiential things. Hypocratic oath is do no harm. Do not intefeer with children.</p>
75.	<p>1. Children should not be tested as potential candidates for psychiatric treatment or intervention. Child hood is NOT a disease.</p> <p>2. The subject of psychiatry is not a real science and almost any psychiatrist will tell you they do not know how to cure people ( of any age ) of things that are troubling them mentally.</p>
76.	<p>It is inhumane to put 0-3 year old children on psychiatric drugs. These drugs are mind altering and create mental disabilities of their own. I have met a number of children who have been put on drugs such as ritalin. Not one of them has become a happy member of society - more like reduced to a somewhat vegetative state. Yes, I do want people with mental disabilities to be helped but psychiatric drugs do not solve the problem, they just create new, often even worse, problems. So, no to screening 0-3 year old children for mental disabilities. Often their problems are just part of growing up and learning how life operates. Let children grow up without drugs.</p>

77.	Psychiatry has no cures, and professes to “manage” mental illness by means of drugs, ECT, and other methods. With a complete lack of science, its “treatment “ far too often results in severe damage, traumatised lives, bizarre and/or violent behaviour, and suicide ideality or actuality. Please do not allow this charlatan profession even greater freedom to destroy young lives by screening infants for mental illness, as it will result in thousands more lives ruined!
78.	"2007/08 Australia had babies under one year on psychiatric drugs. a five year increase of 34% increase for children under 17" Please be open minded and use caution before prescribing psychiatric drugs to children... eg looking holistically ie investigate the health of gut, using natural remedies and supplementation and counselling
79.	<p>The capability of children under 3 years of age to understand their position and processing.</p> <p>I believe this is an example of human rights abuse, the child cannot understand the process and implications. The determination may proscribe future education and limit our populations ability to nurture skills, training, culture, mental and emotional growth.</p>
80.	You people need to take more of your own drugs! Giving a baby drug’s for a mental illness it MIGHT develop later!!! Get the [redacted] out of here! You people are the ones that need help! Your [redacted] insane yourselves!
81.	This is so disturbing to read. Leave the kids alone for god’s sake. Why not just drug all of us then no ones feelings get hurt. What a terrible world we have made.
82.	<p>Regarding screening of children regarding mental health issues. I work with children and also grew up in an adverse situation with emotional abuse, neglect and major trauma (parent died unexpectedly and dramatically when I was seven). It is important to understand that very few, if any, children are born with mental health issues. For this reason, the focus regarding mental health issues should not be on the child. It is the child's environments and care which are the major contributors towards any child's future, safety, morals and values. As a person with several years experience of working in child care, with various centres, I also know that this is not necessarily a healthy environment to grow up in. Unfortunately many people working in child care services are not there for the right reasons. It is great to see the changes which have happened within ECEC since 2012. Having said that, many child care staff are still using "old school" methods, which can be very damaging and traumatic for children. Children have different temperaments and different home situations. It is not appropriate that all children are expected to do the same thing at the same time and being judged depending on their comparison with the group. In many cases, child care centres are understaffed, which results in inadequate care for children. Policies and procedures are often not followed. The lack of individual understanding and attention for each child, is not</p>

	<p>healthy for a child's development. In my own unique situation, I was fortunate to grow up in a small town, where I had many supportive and responsible adults around me, even if my immediate family situation was not nurturing, encouraging and caring. Together with my own experience and further studies within the field of ECEC as well as ongoing personal development through many years, I have a good understanding of what shapes a child's future and a good understanding of what provides appropriate, individual secure and encouraging care for each child, which is enormously contributing towards a child's development and future as an adult in our society. ECEC still have a long way to go in Australia, even if some care facilities are now practising great care for children. It is great stress for children in child care centres, due to the high volume and busy environment. Some children cope better than others. Unfortunately, in this environment the strongest and loudest may survive, while the more submissive and quiet are forgotten. This results in inadequate and insufficient development on an individual emotional and social level, where few children are allowed to develop to the person they were born to be, with their individual talents, abilities and interests. Also adults, who have experienced adversity in childhood, can not all be treated the same. Each person has an individual experience, which impacts on them. It is therefore so important to have very thorough understanding about each person.</p>
83.	<p>This is utterly disgusting. Temper tantrums and being energetic are just normal healthy behaviour for toddlers and you want to fill them full of drugs! For what purpose? Just greed!</p>
84.	<p>Please dont do this I have raised my grandson since birth he was a handsome lively happy boy he walked before everyone else and lived to play and be active he was slow to talk and I had his hearing tested it was not affected but the pediatrician sent him for additional testing and he was diagnosed with ADHD he was 3 Thank god I had brave friend who supplied me with studies comming out of America which were not good on medicating children With the support of my father and friend s I made the difficult decision to not follow the doctors very strong advise he said he would be on drugs and a criminal by 16 Hes not He was slow to read I changed schools within a year with traditional schooling he was the best reader in the class he was a champion athlete and a happy loving friendly boy He went to a sports high school and had a wonderful time He was never any trouble except in the his selection of females hes getting over that He finished his HSC received a sporting Blue in football and played professional football As a constant reader he is articulate and confident is he a genius no is he happy yes You dont need drugs all children arnt quiet and compliant just a little more watchfullness and patience and common sense will do a better job It will give you a glorious person and a happy life</p>
85.	<p>I am very concerned of the high level of prescription of psychotropic drugs amongst children and young people in Australia. Yes, it is no doubt that children and young people experience challenges at certain stage of their life and</p>

	<p>development. But the focus should be on holistic solutions, which is a combination of nutrition, education, emotional resilience, spiritual counselling, community activities and involvement. Passing laws that would allow 0-3 years old to be screened, only open the door to quick fix ‘pop a pill’ solution, by putting or creating more labels into a condition that could be a normal childhood and teenagers phase. More fundings on early intervention should be directed through education and awareness campaigns on practical strategies on how to deal with life changes, friendship, school challenge, family breakups, parenting, nutrition, youth programs focusing being active and involved etc</p>
86.	<p>Please do not allow 0-3 year olds to be screened - screen the parents instead</p>
87.	<p>Small children should not be drugged when a lot of their behavior is a normal behavior . My children had tantrums when small but they were not mentally ill nor have they ever been</p>
88.	<p>The allocation of billions of dollars of tax-payers' monies to psychiatric and mental health services has not in the decades since the 1970s produced a lessening of mental health problems in this country, according to the psychiatric industry itself. The call is for yet more money to be allocated, with no proof that it will produce real help for people with mental health trouble. The proposal to intervene in the lives of children, and especially children in the 0-3 yr old bracket. with broad-scale psychiatric testing followed by possible drugging, cannot be understood as anything more than an attempt to garner life-long captive consumers of the psychiatric industry's services and products. The tendentious and self-serving arguments for early intervention show the hall-marks of cynical, money-driven posturing deceitfully presented as an offer of help.</p>
89.	<p>The idea that 0-3 year old babies can be ‘tested’ for ‘mental illness’ is not only impossible (they cannot even articulate anything to ‘test’), but is also an abhorrent and arrogant stance by the psychiatric ‘profession’ that there is anything to test at all. Babies sometimes have problems but to say that all normal baby behaviour (crying because they are hungry, tired or uncomfortable) are ‘mental illnesses’ flies in the face of acceptable normal behaviour displayed by every human baby. These are not ‘mental illnesses’. Every parent wants their baby comfortable and at ease but this ‘test’ represents a significant reduction of power by the parents to use obvious and discretionary powers themselves to alleviate their OWN baby’s indications of distress, without the use of psychiatric drugs (as these ‘tests’ will recommend), and is something our fore-bearers found quite simple. There was no need for a label, something psychiatry finds so appealing in order to create a new ‘drug customer for life’. Intruding into this dynamic of family by psychiatric ‘testing’ is not only an invalidation of the parents ability to handle their own babies, it violates basic Human Rights as per The Declaration of Human Rights as declared by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1948. Namely 1. We are all born free and equal. 3. The Right to Life 4. No Torture (giving babies psych drugs is definitely torture). 16.</p>

	<p>Marriage and Family 18. Freedom of Thought. The time had come to recognise psychiatry for what is is and always has been; a pseudo science with no validity or proof of success and only profiting from drug sales as its mandate. It has failed dismally and parents and public should BEWARE of this suppressive germ with destructive origins.</p>
90.	<p>Mental "health " system is a joke the statistics are not getting better only getting worse it's totally inhumane and I see it everyday with clients who's lives have been destroyed by the mental health system and the strong psychiatric drugs they are put on ,it's not even a valid scientific based industry so I'm really alarmed that screening a newborn baby for a uncreditaled non scientific totally opinionated "symptoms " is dangerous. My boyfriend went to a dr for a medical condition and walked out of doctors with Prozac he fell apart taking that and then committed suicide he was 35yr old what is going to happen to a little baby! What exactly is going to happen with these little babies after they are so called "screened " it's what this proposal is not saying that's a red flag as I know that their only solution is to drug the babies up and that should be a crime like when you take or push street drugs is a criminal offence this should be regarded as the same if not worse as these babies can't defend themselves. Truly take a look at this- would you really want to push drugs on your tiny baby? What is the future going to be like for this person addicted to a lifetime of drugs potential homicide and suicide? This really is a money making proposal get babies addicted from birth. Natural remedies should be used herbal mixtures, massages holistic approaches there are some amazing alternative practitioners that get results I even know of a lady that knows the different cries of a baby ie hunger, sleep, pain etc there is so many alternatives than an unfounded psychiatric check list of symptoms with no other solution other than drugs and other barbaric practices! Please don't allow this!!</p>
91.	<p>According to verifiable and published medical research the human brain does not mature until the late teens or early twenties. Thus to apply any mental and emotional tests for a mental illness on children is neither valid or necessary and a waste of valuable resources. Small children have always used emotion to attempt to create an effect on their environment and others as they do not have the physical capabilities to do otherwise. Any evaluation of any persons, especially children, exhibiting what could be considered abnormal behaviour must be preceded by a consideration that they may have suffered a loss of a friend or personal status and their cultural background and then, if the behaviour is not culturally relevant, a full medical examination must be carried out. This examination must include the possibilities of mineral or vitamin deficiencies or excesses, brain tumours, spinal problems, hearing and eyesight, food, lead or other poisoning and a host of other anatomical and biological tests. These examinations are rarely, if ever, carried out which results In treating a real medical condition as a mental illness with an assortment of medications which they cannot resolve. It is far more economical to test for real and curable malfunctions than to commit a patient to a lifetime of mind numbing medications which hide the real problem. The huge range of normal</p>



	<p>human emotion can never be renamed as illnesses and can never be resolved more than temporarily by chemical intervention. And this would only be for a dangerous psychotic episode. If that episode continues there is something medically missed.</p>
92.	<p>The proposal to screen 0 to 3 year olds in Australia is obscene. I recently spoke to my G.P. and I asked her if she would give Ritalin to young children - 0 to 3 years old and she said: "definitely not - Ritalin is a Class 8 drug and above that are Class 9 drugs which are illegal because they are so dangerous, for example heroin is a Class 9 drug". The real issue here seems to be the individuals who are pushing this agenda, surely they are the ones who should be questioned as their true motives? The truth is the 'chemical imbalance' diagnoses is completely erroneous and has NO BASIS IN SCIENCE! Also, where does BIG PHARMA fit into this scheme and is the Productivity Commission being duped into believing that this is all very innocent and yet in the background the potential for bigger profits for drug companies and permanent customer - ask any business person and they will tell you that a permanent customer is the best customer to have. If children are damaged by being given Class 8 drugs that they don't need, will the legal actions for compensation be directed towards the Productivity Commission?</p>
93.	<p>I am extremely concerned about the potential direction the government is taking in the area of mental health, particularly with regards early intervention and the potential mental health screening of babies and toddlers. I understand there are issues regarding "terminology" and that checking a child's "emotional well being" sounds less invasive than checking for "mental health issues" but anyone who has some knowledge of this field knows it is the same thing. The field of psychiatry, who have gained themselves the position of authority on the subject of mental health, has a lot to answer for. This field knows that they have no medical or physical test of any nature to determine whether a person has a mental illness, and yet their solutions and treatments usually call for medication or other physical treatments such as ECT. If there are no physical tests, blood tests, scans, brain scans etc that are done on patients, how can they justify prescribing medication, which is a physical handling? Their drugs all come with horrific side effects, many of which are worse "mental" behaviours such as suicidal thoughts, as well as physical side effects such as heart attack or stroke. Many of the drugs come with black box warnings. It is known that the DSM is made up of numerous "disorders" that have been voted into the DSM by the American Psychiatric Association. The diagnoses for any of these disorders is a conversation about a checklist of behaviours. ADHD is a classic diagnoses by checklist. If a kid is said to have certain behaviours then he can be given a medical diagnosis of ADHD and given Ritalin (a schedule 8 drug equivalent to cocaine). This cannot pass as medicine, and cannot pass as treatment or help in any way, shape or form. It is fraud, it is dishonest, it is harmful and it is creating a generation of children who are going to grow up addicted to harmful medications and cannot function in life without them. The psychiatric profession and the drug companies are making a lot of money. They are not helping and they are not curing. These new proposals which may lead</p>

	<p>to 0-3 year olds being screened via a checklist asked at the community health centre is only going to lead to more kids of a very young age being "diagnosed" and "treated". If the government is serious about addressing mental health in Australia, they need to stop taking advice from the "vested interests", ie psychiatrists, and start getting accurate advice and data from people who do not stand to make billions from the outcome. They also need to look at whether the billions of dollars of tax payer money that gets poured into the mental health system (which is run by psychiatrists) is actually leading to people being cured, and mental health improving. If any of their treatments and medications worked, mental health would be improving. Any solution the government considers that is recommended by psychiatry is NO solution, it is just more lies at tax payer expense!</p>
94.	<p>The widespread practice in Australia of the use of psychiatric drugs on babies and small children to "correct" , " behavioral issues ," has been rampant now since ritalin started getting prescribed for ADHD (an invented " illness" ) in the 1980's . The only beneficiaries are big pharma . Not our kids or their families . We have to stop dumbing down our kids with these drugs . SAY NO TO DRUGS</p>
95.	<p>The issue of prescription drugs to infants in harmful addictive doses must not continue. There are significant long term problems with this draconian approach</p>
96.	<p>I would like to express my strong disagreement with the proposal to screen children from 0 to 3 years old for signs of mental illness. The current criteria for evaluating early onset of mental disorder is wholly subjective and there is no science behind early intervention whatsoever. Screening children particularly as young as 3 years old is very dangerous. It leads to treatment and stigma. The treatment available in terms of medication are extremely harmful. Statistically people with mental health issues are many time more likely to recover without any treatment when compared to those unfortunate enough to be drugged or worse. I've seen for myself the damage caused by the so called "treatment" of my mother including drugs on which she is now totally dependant. The ECT she received turned her into a nervous wreck and unable to function and living in a state of terror. Children screened, get labelled for normal childhood behaviour. Please protect our future generations by NOT screening and certainly NOT drugging</p>
97.	<p>As a woman now in my sixties I can look back over the years, of being with and caring for children, as an extremely rewarding education on how to live, work and play with the a new generation. When I became a solo mother I joined and worked with a collective of solo mothers to share child care. We supported each other to care, pool good advice and out-smart the constant life in motion of our children. On we bravely went with our 0-3 year olds, our preschoolers and the after school pickups. There was sick days, school holidays, tantrums, study problems, bed wetting and all the human dramas of toddlers to adolescence. Zero to three year olds can be exhausting, frustrating and entertaining in equal measure but in all the years of experience I have had with very young children I cannot see how any sort</p>

	<p>of psychiatric assessment of mental illness both present or in the future can ever be ascertained. It just doesn't make sense, no matter how difficult a child may appear to be during a period of time, you can be assured it never lasts. In fact a child's behavior can be turned around overnight when a bully is discovered suppressing that child no matter what their age. Experience taught myself and other mothers caring for our children that bullying was the first thing we looked for if a child became sad, withdrawn or began acting up. This bullying could be coming from another child, a manipulative ex-partner or relative or even a neighbor etc. The trick is to find who it is. Good nutritious food is vital. Constant alertness for bullying. Always take obstinacy and tantrums out into the world of the beach, park or playground. When it's all been run or played out then its home for good food and sleep. How on earth has psychiatry and psychiatric drugs come into the lives of our children and especially our small, so very vulnerable, zero to three year olds?</p>
98.	<p>Providing a calm, safe, nurturing and loving environment for newborns and toddlers 0 - 3 is a duty of care we all have as Australians. This includes ensuring good nutrition and checking for any underlying physical health issues should a 0 - 3 year old be showing ongoing signs of distress. Thousands of years of wisdom on successful parenting and raising of children exist in our world's diverse cultures. Always, loving parents/carers, good nutrition, and a safe place for a child to grow and learn are requisite. Where the child's home environment does not meet these criteria of course the child will have a hard time. But behaviour which is part of the normal course of growing must not be put under a microscope and labelled as abnormal. Any of us would have a hard time finding a baby or toddler who doesn't have trouble sleeping at times or who doesn't cry or get upset at the loss of a favourite toy etc. There is no validity to a 'screening program' which uses normal phases of childhood development and social learning as symptoms of potential 'mental illness' or lack of 'wellbeing'. Such a screening program and possibly prescribing of drugs as 'the solution' is not only a gross waste of tax payers' money. It is a huge violation of our duty of care to children. By all means, assist parents with children in traumatic home environments. Provide real education programs to raise struggling parents out of poverty or domestic violence or the social issue which is causing the distressing environment. Real solutions are out there, but the decision to find real solutions and the decision not just to drug traumatised people, even babies, comes first. As an Australian I am very proud of the caringness and willingness to help shown by the majority of Australians. At this time when past (and in my opinion failed) programs are being reviewed. PLEASE let common sense prevail. Let babies and children grow up with love and good nutrition and let's focus on investing in programs which help all sections of our communities to rise above poverty and domestic violence so that all babies have a chance at a happy, healthy start in life. Focusing on effective education and assisting parents to identify real and useful goals is a much better and sustainable investment. People who can participate in our communities and earn a living doing something valuable in their communities are likely to be happier people who raise happier children.</p>

	<p>Children need good nutrition, correct medical care for physical illness and safe, loving home environments. Please, assure me that babies and children aged 0 - 3 will not be subjected to 'mental health' screening. Please state categorically that no program will be introduced which results in 0 - 3 year olds being subjected to anti-psychotics or anti-depressant drugs. Such drugs are poisons, dangerous and such drugs have no place in the care of children.</p>
99.	<p>It seems as I speak with other parents Australia is experiencing a huge amount of psychiatric drugging is occurring. I have viewed some statistics In regard to the amount of prescriptions being written - it seems astronomical with a population of about 24 million, approximately 35 million prescriptions are written for psychiatric drugs every year. It is not only myself who is concerned about the growing numbers of children and teenagers ending up on antidepressants when no antidepressant is approved for use in children under the age of 18 for depression. I am concerned as a parent that there has been a huge increase in psychiatric drug consumption over the last 20-30 years – I have heard that drugs are a sort of miraculous cure for everything that ails the child – I don't see this occurring. As I mentioned earlier there has been a dramatic increase in the prescriptions of psychiatric drugs for children and also labelling of children which can only be a rationalization that justifies prescriptions of psychotropic drugs to Australian children. Parents have a right to know of all the potential side effects of psychotropic drugs proposed for their children so they can give fully informed consent. I have read that there are many facts about these drugs, including dangerous side effects, parents and others who are responsible for the welfare of these children are just not being told. I am writing this post in an effort to get a more intense investigation carried out before any laws are put into place that are legally binding for small children and older children for that matter to be given any type of drug</p>
100.	<p>I am very worried and concerned about the the proposal to screen baby's and toddlers for mental health issues (early intervention) by simply looking at their behavior. The listed issues they will use as diagnosis is factually frightening, there is no scientific basis to these lists of so called behavioral issues and is normal child behavior that any child can exhibit at any time. I am very worried that a diagnosis is based solely on the opinion of someone in a position to do so without any scientific evidence and without a proper medical examination by a qualified doctor to see if a child is ill or has a physical condition. The agenda behind this proposal is the sale of more psychotropic drugs to increase profits for drug companies and the mental health industry with its pseudo science at the expense of the health of children and our future generations. Over the past 20 years in Australia and the rest of the world for that matter the use of these drugs has grown exponentially along with the number of additional syndromes voted into the DSM with no cures. If these so called treatments had any benefit to the persons prescribed them shouldn't they be getting better and less people using them? The success and effectiveness of any medication or treatment should be measured by the amount of people</p>

	<p>becoming well and not needing it!!! So why is the number of people on dangerous psychotropic drugs increasing??? and now these profit driven mongerers of damage and destruction want to harm our most vulnerable, the very ones who look to us for care and protection - our children. Ask yourself, would you want your own children, grandchildren or young relative harmed ??</p>
101.	<p>I am mostly concerned with the idea of screening children age 0-3 in mental health. This is not necessary. What is necessary is a system where parents are correctly educated on how to be a parent, and to teach them to understand normal, active, cheerful behaviour which children usually are known for. I think this is a matter of education on how to understand, and practicing the parents into better handling of their children. I don't think the child is the problem, but the lack of know-how in the parent. I do not agree with this petition, children do not need "preventive drugs". They need good communication and understanding and enough energy to keep up with them that's all.</p>
102.	<p>Please prevent this mental health early intervention. Our children need education in literacy and nutrition. Such a program, Early Intervention and Screening, as is being proposed opens the door to confusion and potential injustice to the family unit. Even worse, opens a door to misdiagnoses based only on opinion and leads to drugging of our future leaders with powerful pharmaceutical drugs. Please do not let this happen and enforce that our government spend our tax payers money as they should be. Educating and supporting the future leaders of our great country. A very concerned employer and father.</p>
103.	<p>these are times that require proof and evidence ...clinical trials and such where is the evidence for assessment of 3 year olds where is the evidence of benefit of drugging of children?</p>
104.	<p>I am a retired secondary teacher now casually employed as a relieving teacher in the primary sector. Performing my job of teaching teenagers I encountered occasionally all sorts of strange behaviour. The school community kept the students "on the rails" until they outgrew all this stuff. And 99% did. The focus of my concern is the proposal to test very young children for potential mental health issues. Little kids go through phases as they develop over the years and they go through moods on a daily basis. All parents must have experienced this. How anyone can pick a potential for mental problems through all this normal development is beyond me. We used to say that this was normal kids' behaviour. The real potential here is for misdiagnosis. And the help comes in the form of medication! I am appalled and I plead that the authorities don't go ahead with this.</p>
105.	<p>I am gravely concerned about the future health of our young people if the psychiatric drugging of children continues to increase. Now with proposals to screen children regularly and even babies from 0-3 months, it is obvious that more and more young people will become drug dependent and robbed of their full</p>

	<p>potential. There are obviously, so many factors that could cause a baby to behave in a non optimum way. Sleeping difficulties for example, are often due to feeding problems and the baby is simply hungry. Let's look at what needs to be diagnosed with some real medical and nutritional tests or even just some common sense. And is it strange that a small child might cry when his mother leaves the room. Adults have different reactions and clearly, so do children. Over the years with the increased drugging of children, the outcome that I am aware of is at "best" drug dependency and at worst the link between so called ADHD drugs and psychotic behaviour, aggressive, suicidal and homicidal behaviour including mass shootings in American schools. With more screening and questions that anyone may be able to answer the "wrong way" there will surely be more and more damage done. The drug scourge in our society can only be worsened by these actions. Responsibly, we should be pouring funds into finding solutions to getting people "off drugs". The mental health of our country would be greatly improved with people becoming free of the unwanted effects of drugs and addiction.</p>
106.	<p>I have had a wealth of experience around children. I know that each child has their own special character and as a result behave in many different ways. How could anyone even think of assessing a 0-3 year old for early intervention come mental health. To present list that encompasses the normal behaviours and emotions of a baby because that age bracket is just that. The list I observed was purely actions and emotions that a normal child would experience in their brief life - sadness in losing a stuffed toy. Tantrums !!!!! Who hasn't seen a child put on a tantrum? Very normal. And the list goes on. This assessment opens up the opportunity to give drugs if a child is a child acting acting as any normal would do. Who wants a beautiful even spirited child lose their life by dulling them down with drugs. Children have rights like anyone else. They need the security of not being damaged by drugs causing damage to their tender little brains thus causing learning difficulties by people who have some hidden agenda. This is something that should never have been considered.</p>
107.	<p>Absolutely no way are you going to let children. 0-3yold be screened and diagnose for mental illness. The kid hasn't had a chance to develop one... look listen any mental health practitioner that prescribes drugs is working for big farmer. The number one mental Healthy guy on the planet the guy professional athletes go to the one presidents go to is Tony Robbins he is the top mental health guy. Look do you think giving kids drugs are going to help NO! all drugs are poisons! Are you as an adult going to when your distressed and depressed going to take drugs and alcohol? Then why give drugs to kids when they aren't happy...only big famer \$\$\$ in the disguise of a mental health practitioner would. Look if you give me any kid I can improve his communication ability within seconds ,give me minutes and I'll make him smile ,give me hours and I'll have him laughing and give me days and I'll have him learning and winning and playing. Drugs are bad! they are criminal! Look do you know why you feel so good looking at the ocean or a rain forest or across to the horizon, the sun set or a look out? It's because your putting your</p>

	<p>Attention on something far away from you which means it's not in your head introverted on your problems. You look at any depressed individual I'll tell you where his thoughts are they are on his problems in his head or he is in total apathy because he is on drugs. Your not doing that to kids. No way are you screening them to drug them. When there are much better more civilised methods. Look psychologists who prescribe drugs are ancient that's Stone Age. That's barbaric and criminal. It's over they are never going to continue that ever again. Right now in history we have a new way to deal with the lower emotions and server mental issues and it's not with drugs...I promise you if any mental expert tried to really find solutions and didn't bother to go learn psychology and psychiatry. There are many ways on Line to solve the mental issues I am trained in a few. They exist for anyone who wants the truth in how to totally fix a mentally ill person. But look some are really fucked up you say...it's true some are gone beyond repair. The amount of hours that it would take to not only handle their issues even if you could you would loose a lot of time and they wouldn't catch up with education. They are just too far behind. Well tough that's life. You can't save them all not right now. But if we stop heading down the path of drugs in 50-100years we will probably figure it out. But no way your drugging kids it's totally inhumane.</p>
108.	<p>I feel there is extensive evidence that shows screening of individuals, especially the young has lead to poor long term outcomes. Let's stop worrying about unscientific diagnosis and start checking nutrition and health of before giving drugs. Frankly the long term outcome by simply screening and then drugging is resulting in long term drug addicts and people with long term suffering.</p>
109.	<p>I have serious concerns about some of the proposed changes to the mental health act outlined in Part IV, Section 17 of the Draft Report regarding infants and children. On page 650 the Draft Report says that its objective is: "to improve early detection of risk factors for mental ill-health, expand early intervention and enhance the efficacy of prevention and mental health and wellbeing promotion for children" Your letter of correction says that "The Productivity Commission does not recommend or suggest that the check should be linked to referring children to a mental health professional, providing children with a diagnosis or enabling increased use of psychiatric drugs." So, what would be the plan for children identified with "risk factors for mental ill-health"? If they would not be preferred to mental health professionals and their version of treatment, then what would be the next steps? The claims above are at odds with the statistics from similar "early interventions" and the corresponding increase in psychiatric involvement and drug prescription. Early intervention is a troubling area and has been attempted and scrapped previously as there is too much room for error and when you have the emerging minds and health of a generation it's not something to be considered lightly. The conflicting statements above show that these new guidelines need to reconsidered completely to hold the health and wellbeing of our children to a higher standard, they are the future of this country and deserve to given the best start in life – this is not the way to give them that</p>

110.	The so-called 'check' is just a euphemism for mental health check and the result will be - in too many cases- a prescription for Psychiatric drugs followed by a lifetime for the person of dependency and hell. This is despite the fact that the drugs help no-one except the drug manufacturer and the dispensing doctor. It sounds very much like self-interest to me
111.	Label kids with mental health labels before they can even speak to say what's happening within their mind only sets them up to be labeled for life, medicated into a stupor for life making it difficult for them to learn, fit in with others, find & maintain employment, which makes them susceptible to homelessness, violence & incarceration, clogging the justice system & giving no hope of a happy healthy normal life. It's common sense to know these disorders aren't able to be diagnosed in toddlers, so DON'T!
112.	This is nothing more than the profit industry of the pharmaceuticals pushing their wares and expanding their influence and control over the masses. If there are genuine issues evolving in babies and young children then the cause needs to be addressed - not the symptoms. Corporations have no collective conscience, only a profit line for it's shareholders - and it uses it's considerable political influence to create models for the masses that ensure its profitability.
113.	They asked me to comment on this