



Western Australian children at risk of “BRAVE NEW WORLD” psychosurgery and Electroshock

Mental Health Abuse of Children in Australia Ignored

UNDER PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE WA MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 12-year-olds could consent to brain-damaging psychosurgery and electroshock treatment without parental consent. When exposed earlier this year, the Mental Health Commission admitted, “Psychosurgery has not been performed in WA since the 1970s,” but should be kept on the books because “emerging forms of psychosurgery... may in future be beneficial in treating” depression.

That “emerging” psychosurgery includes a brain operation that looks more like “behaviour conditioning” from Aldous Huxley’s book, *Brave New World*. DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION involves electrode implants being inserted surgically into the brain, then an electrical current passes continuously through the electrodes every day via a pacemaker near the heart. It can cause bleeding in the brain, which can lead to stroke, movement disorders, breathing and heart problems, panic attacks, hallucinations, and increased suicidal thoughts and behaviour.

Already, a \$30,000 feasibility study is being conducted in WA to determine its use for treatment of mental disorder. Dozens of Australians have already undergone the procedure—mostly in Victoria—and often for “treatment resistant depression” (TRD).

However, TRD is the latest cash cow for the psychiatric-pharmaceutical industry that invented the term to explain away psychiatric drugs and electroshock not working. Both treatments can cause irreversible damage but rather than admit this, psychiatrists blame the patient’s “depression” or other “mental illness” to justify even more bizarre and brain-damaging interventions being used. Similarly, they invented the term “antidepressant withdrawal syndrome” to cover up the fact patients were experiencing drug withdrawal—now the subject of multi-million dollar lawsuits in the U.S.

The **DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION** device has already been linked to adverse event reports. In a 255 person study, patients who had deep brain stimulation reported 659 adverse effects. There was at least one death from cerebral haemorrhage. Further, radiology personnel and physicians forgetting the operation involves leaving electrodes in the brain, have conducted MRIs (brain scans) which has caused coma, permanent neurological impairment and death.

- **ELECTROSHOCK:** The WA’s Commissioner for Children and Young People recommended that **ECT and psychosurgery be banned on those under the age of 18.** The Mental Health Commission has yet to agree to this.

- Medicare-funded electroshock treatments in WA increased 50% between 2005 and 2011—some as young as 11 were given it. More than 9,000 Medicare funded electroshock treatments have been given to Western Australian’s since 2006/07. There were 152 treatments given to under 24 year olds in 2010/11.

- **PSYCHOSTIMULANT** prescriptions for all age groups nationwide have increased 32-fold since 1992/93, and in WA 23-fold. Prescriptions for all age groups in WA increased 26% since 2006/07, largely due to Concerta and Ritalin (Long Acting) added to the PBS in 2007 and 2008. 60,000 Australian children are on prescription amphetamines or “kiddy cocaine.”

- **Strattera** can cause suicidal thoughts or attempts, liver damage, severe allergic reactions, fast or irregular heartbeats, seizures and abnormal thinking. **Concerta** can cause confusion, abnormal thoughts, agitation, anxiety, depression, irritability, panic attacks, persistent crying, hallucination, and suicidal thoughts or attempts.

PATRICK MCGORRY'S YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CENTRES: POTENTIAL THREAT

headspace Youth Mental Health Centres are used for “research” on teens. An additional headspace centre is being established in Bunbury. Until public pressure forced him to recently disabuse the idea, McGorry advocated prescribing antipsychotics—especially Risperdal (risperidone)—to teens he “predicted” might become psychotic to *prevent* the psychosis. Psychosis, along with life-threatening diabetes, is a side effect of antipsychotics. **JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS** makes **RISPERDAL** and funded McGorry’s early clinical trial on the drug as well as an **“EARLY PSYCHOSIS TREATMENT PACK”** that he helped develop. That, in turn, was used to establish the **AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL GUIDELINES FOR EARLY PSYCHOSIS** that recommended Risperdal and Zyprexa (olanzapine).

Of the 9,683 Australian children aged 2 to 16 prescribed antipsychotics in 2009/10, 79% were taking **RISPERDAL**.

PBS expenditure on RISPERDAL and other antipsychotics has soared 3,700% since 1992/93, with \$3.4 million spent on prescriptions for under 18 year olds in 2007/08.

Janssen paid \$158 million in January to settle a lawsuit in Texas, USA, over its fraudulent marketing of Risperdal, including paying psychiatrists to develop treatment guidelines. In April an Arkansas court fined Janssen \$1.2 billion for playing down and concealing Risperdal risks.

TAKE ACTION

1. Psychiatric drugs can be deadly for children and teens. Watch the award-winning DVD, *Dead Wrong: How Psychiatric Drugs Can Kill Your Child*. Get others to watch it.
2. Write to your local MP opposing the use of psychosurgery or ECT on any child or adolescent and calling for this practice to be banned.
3. **Report psychiatric drug damage** to the Therapeutic Goods Administration at www.tga.gov.au and click on “Report a Problem.”
4. **Seek legal advice regarding the possibility of commencing an individual or Class Action lawsuit.** In the US, successful lawsuits have been filed in relation to antipsychotics causing diabetes and antidepressants causing suicide, withdrawal effects and for women taking them during pregnancy, birth defects.
5. Get informed about adverse drug effects. Log onto Psychiatric Drug Side-effect Database at cchr.org.au.

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CCHR was established in 1969 by the Church of Scientology and Professor of Psychiatry Dr. Thomas Szasz with the sole purpose of investigating and exposing psychiatric violations of human rights.