



THE FACTS ABOUT THE PSYCHIATRIC DRUGGING OF AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

The mass psychiatric drugging of Australian children is a tragedy. Too many children are growing up believing that they are “defective,” or that being unable to concentrate is because they are “ill” or have a chemical imbalance in their brain that can only be controlled or corrected by taking a pill. This is deceptive marketing that puts children at risk. There are no genetic tests, brain scans, X-rays or any scientific test to verify mental disorders as physical disease, requiring potentially dangerous drugs to treat them. Any diagnosis of mental disorder is based on subjective opinion about behaviour.

As one Australian parent’s group notes: “It is a profound tragedy when normal, healthy children are exposed to the potentially devastating physical and emotional damage that can be caused by this diagnosis [ADHD] and treatment. It is a public health issue when a significant percentage of Australian children are being drugged into ‘zombie-like’ states with prescription amphetamines, and when those drugs are being swapped and sold like candy in Australian schoolyards.”

How vast is the problem? These are the facts, and why a documentary such as *Psychiatry: Friend or Foe, The Untold Story of Australian Psychiatry* is vital for parents and individuals to see. To watch in full, log onto: cchr.org.au.

Antidepressants and Antipsychotics

As early as 2004, Australia’s drug regulatory agency the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) warned that SSRIs the most common class of antidepressants (e.g. Prozac, Zoloft, Aropax) can cause an increased risk of suicidality, including suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and self-harm events in children. In 2005 this warning



was extended to include adults. Again in 2016 and 2018 the TGA warned of the risk of increased suicidal thinking and behaviour with antidepressants, particularly SSRIs.

Yet, antidepressant prescribing increased by 102% between 2007/08 and 2017/18. Despite no antidepressant

having TGA approval for use in children under 18 to treat depression, in 2017/2018 there were over 101,000 children on an antidepressant. In 2018/19 there were 224,532 children aged 0-17 on psychiatric drugs, 2,312 of these aged 0-4.

Weight gain is a common side effect for antipsychotics and can be severe enough to cause life-threatening diabetes, with over \$1 billion awarded in U.S. lawsuits against the drug Zyprexa. An Australian 13-year-old girl put on 45kg over a 6-month-period while on Zyprexa and a 15-year-old boy, also on Zyprexa, went from 60kg to 100 kg. Risperdal, another antipsychotic, has been the subject of multi-million dollar lawsuits in the U.S. over the drug causing gynecomastia—female breast growth in boys prescribed it.

ADHD Drugs

The ADHD drugs, Ritalin, Concerta, lisdexamfetamine, Vyvanse and dexamfetamine are Schedule 8 drugs in Australia, classified as drugs of addiction in the same abuse category as cocaine, opium and morphine. Stimulants can cause psychosis, strokes and suicide.

By April 2014, the TGA’s Adverse Drug Reactions Database reported the suicide of a 9-year-old-boy and the attempted suicides of an 11 year and 8-year-old while taking the non-stimulant ADHD drug Strattera (an antidepressant). Other side effects reported were agitation, weight loss, chest pains and self-harm. Strattera has the strongest warning that can be placed on any drug in Australia, a “boxed warning” because of the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviour in children.

The 2010 Raine Study, conducted by the Telethon Institute in WA, was the first long-term outcomes stimulant study in the world. Researchers found that children receiving stimulants had significantly greater diastolic blood pressure (the pressure between heart beats) than children who have never received medication. This side effect can predispose children to the risk of heart attacks and stroke. They also found that “stimulant medication use increased the odds of below-age-level academic achievement by a factor of 10 times,” which “strongly suggests that medication may not result in any long term academic gains (as rated by a classroom teacher).”

WARNING: Anyone taking psychotropic drugs should not immediately stop taking them. Due to their dangerous side effects that include potential withdrawal effects, no one should cease taking or change doses of any psychiatric drug without the advice and assistance of a competent qualified medical doctor.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Get a Thorough Medical Checkup: The adverse effects of psychiatric drugs are even more abusive when factoring in that parents have their informed consent rights violated when not told of all available educational,



medical or other alternatives. For example, ensuring that a thorough physical examination of a child first rules out any undiagnosed, underlying medical condition that could be manifesting as unwanted behaviour, disruptive behaviour or pain. Parents should always find the cause of their child's problem and never be satisfied with a mere explanation or subjective opinion of symptoms.

Report Psychiatric Abuse: To do so, log onto CCHR Australia's Abuse Case Questionnaire online at www.cchr.org.au There you will also find where in your state you can lodge a complaint to government or law enforcement officials about a psychiatrist, mental health practitioner or psychiatric institution or ward.

Report Psychotropic Drug Adverse Reactions: Log onto the website for Australia's drug regulatory agency, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) at www.tga.gov.au and click on "Report a Problem." Or phone its Consumer Adverse Medication Events Line on: 1300 134 237.

Seek Legal Advice: While CCHR does not give medical or legal advice, log onto www.cchr.org.au, for a list of legal organisations for each state of Australia that may be able to assist in locating a lawyer. This includes organisations which assist in locating a pro bono lawyer (free or costs only).

Distribute CCHR Materials and Give the Gift of Your Time to Help Others: Inform others by distributing CCHR's publications. Flyers and pamphlets are available free to give to others. Volunteer your time to assist with CCHR's campaigns no matter where you live. Contact CCHR to offer your help.

Appeal for Legislative Action: Legislators really do want to know where you stand on the issues facing your state and our nation. Write to your elected State and Federal Members of Parliament to request laws be changed and implemented to protect vulnerable children, adults and the elderly from coercive or damaging psychotropic drug use.

Donate: CCHR is a non-profit organization and depends upon the generosity of its members and the public. Memberships and donations are welcome and help fund CCHR mailings of DVDs and information to key professionals and others.

Seminars, Movie Nights and Training Students: Hold a seminar or movie night and show one of CCHR's award-winning, informative documentary DVDs on psychiatry to educate others. Schools, colleges and universities around the world also use the CCHR DVDs to help educate students. If you would like free copies of any CCHR DVDs to give to students or attendees at movie nights or seminars, please contact CCHR Australia.

Put Me on Your Mailing List/Email List: As a result of CCHR's efforts, numerous legal safeguards and protections against psychiatry's coercive practices, damaging treatments and criminal acts have been achieved. Receive notifications from CCHR when actions are needed for such things as legislative reform, letters to the editor etc. You will also receive the latest updates. Please contact CCHR to provide your contact details or log onto the homepage at www.cchr.org.au to sign up for email updates.

Link to the CCHR Website: If you or someone you know has a website, to ensure others are educated about the risks of psychiatry, add a link to CCHR's websites:

Australian National Office: www.cchr.org.au
Victoria: www.cchr victoria.org.au
International: www.cchr.org ♦ www.cchr int.org

THANK YOU FOR TAKING A STAND AND JOINING THIS CRUSADE!

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CCHR was co-founded by the Church of Scientology and the late Professor of Psychiatry, Dr. Thomas Szasz, in 1969 to investigate and expose psychiatric violations of human rights.