

28 February 2015

Ms Marcia Neave
Commissioner
Royal Commission into Family Violence
Victorian

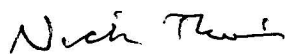
Dear Commissioner Neave,

I am a regional generalist paediatrician, and am confronted regularly by children with significant behaviour problems, aggressive, oppositional, disrespectful, "ADHD", and usually with associated learning difficulties. These problems invariably stem from their earlier formative years (0-2 years) in an environment of domestic violence, drug abuse, and emotional neglect. Such children often have large sibships with different fathers, and often end up in foster care which is an improvement, but certainly not an ideal situation. These children are often destined to follow in the footsteps of their parents, continuing the cycle.

Currently it would seem that addressing domestic violence by changing adult males' problems of alcoholism, drug abuse, poor anger control, and "possessiveness" of partners is an almost impossible task. However, could I suggest that you also consider "turning off the tap" to reduce the numbers of children mentioned above from entering the cycle of despair. This could be approached by offering a monetary incentive to new mothers to have an IUD inserted (Marina) as soon as practically possible after delivery. These have about a five-year lifespan. The option could be for example, \$2000 up front for an IUD, and \$500 at each birthday for the next 4 years without a subsequent pregnancy, or, alternatively, for those not taking up the offer, \$4000 over 4 years in the form of monthly family payments, so it is non discriminatory. Such an offer would, I think, reduce the number of subsequent children in these problem families, and one could easily assess the effectiveness of this intervention over a relatively short time frame such as 3-5 years.

Such an intervention would be cost-effective, even just by reducing the costs of community foster care, without the enormous potential savings from reduced child protection notifications and other social consequences of poverty, poor education and criminality.

Yours Sincerely



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