

## CCHR COMMISSION HEARING

On April 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 a Commission Hearing at the Jubilee Room in Parliament house, NSW. The hearing was on the Psychiatric Labelling and Drugging of Children.

The commissioners were comprised of the following people:

**Roger French** is co-editor of the Natural Health Society's magazine, *New Vegetarian and Natural Health*. For the past 23 years he has been Health Director of the Natural Health Society of Australia, a not-for-profit organisation. Altogether he has been involved with Natural Health for 38 years and is author of the book *The Man Who Lived in Three Centuries – The Secrets to His Freedom from Illness and Early Ageing*.

**Norma Markovski** is a lawyer who works in the area of human rights and has experience in the area of Occupational Health & Safety as well as the legal advisor to the Australian Philippine Services League . She often provides pro-bono legal services to the less fortunate members of the community

**Dr. Nazir Gul Daawar** is a Medical Doctor and Lawyer who is a Peace Ambassador in Sydney, a Member of Human Rights and Responsibility Committee at the Universal Peace Federation and member of the Global Council. He is also Chairman of Afghan Association NSW. For the last fifteen years he has worked with the United Nations in various capacities and was the Founder and Chairperson of the first human rights organisation in Afghanistan named "Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders" (Modafean-e-Hoqooq-e-Bashar-e-Afghanistan). He has various books, booklets, and conference papers and articles published in well-known newspapers and magazines around the world.

**Michael Sichel** is a registered osteopath & accredited naturopath who has been in practice for 38 years. He specializes in the non-drug treatment of childhood problems and has a genuine care for parents and children. He is the author of several books dealing with the problems of children and is deeply interested in finding real solutions to the cause of any problem a child is facing. His publications include:

*Simple steps to better health* (1961)

*How to reverse hyperactivity without drugs* (2002)

*Bitter-sweet profits* (2003) - International best seller

*How to reverse learning and behavioural problems without drugs* (2004)

*Good News for the Alphabet Kids* (2005)

**The Rev. George Capsis** is a Minister of the Baptist Union of Australia since 1978. As Cronulla Football Chaplain, George is chairman of the Sharks' Charity Trust, which helps charity groups around the Shire. He has established Sharks' Cottage at Miranda for Homeless Youth and two other homes In the Shire. Currently he is working hard at establishing a 24-hour Crisis Hotline for the purpose of being available at times when a majority of establishments are closed. He also has plans for the future of obtaining a few acres out of Sydney for troubled youth.

**Dr Cary Ooi** MBBS, GCAE (ACU) Dip. Health Law (UWS) is the Medical Director, The Medical Defence Conspiracy Ltd as well as a Visiting Medical Officer, West Sydney Disability Services, Rydalmere. He is the Medico-legal Advisor, Medical Consumers Association (MDA) NSW as well as a Consultant, Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission, Australia (for inquiry, Rights of Child, Mentally retarded Persons and Disabled Persons)

There were 10 prepared testimonies and one impromptu testimony.

**Libby Selep:** As a child Libby was an outgoing, loud girl, leader type and uninterested in school. She was sent to school counsellor and was given ADHD diagnosis after being given a brain scan and other tests. Her mother intervened and would not give her the drugs prescribed after she did her own research and discovered the dangers. Libby was very affected by the diagnosis in that it badly affect her self esteem. She has gone on to become a successful property developer and has just published her first book, all this despite her ADHD diagnosis.

**Antoni Stojak:** This was a very emotional testimony as Antoni went over the effects of the diagnosis on him. He was a very bright child with a high IQ, but the diagnosis of ADHD really affected his self esteem. He was diagnosed with ADHD after having a brain scan. He was put on Dexamphetamine, but his mother took him off it as he was not sleeping or eating and was suffering badly. He was also regarded as one of the worst boys in the state and sent on a wilderness camp. During the testimony he reminisced that all they ate in the ten days was junk food. As an adult he changed his diet, and stopped having sugar. He is currently studying remedial and Chinese massage.

**Linda Oxley:** Linda told the story of her son Ben who was put into the mental health system at 17years of age. He had been smoking marijuana since he was thirteen and had graduated from this to other street drugs and then to 'ice' or methamphetamine. On the 'ice' he freaked out and had a psychotic break. He has spent the last five years in the system deteriorating all that time. Linda took the psychiatric hospital to the Supreme Court to stop him being given ECT. The information she constantly supplied that the drugs were causing his problems, not the originally 'illness' was constantly ignored. He is still In the system and still doing badly.

**Marion Redstone** is an advocate, in Australia, for the Pfeiffer Clinic. This is a very successful method being used in the United States by Dr Bill Walsh for restoring health for anybody, including the mentally ill, by the use of nutrition specifically targeted at the very particular needs of each person as they are now. They have amazing results. Their biomedical model is successful in restoring mental health to 'schizophrenics,' people with depression and kids with 'ADHD.' One of the cases, Suzie Morgan, had used part of this material specifically.

**Carole Ann Britt** has been in the system. She illustrated, with her story, that diagnosis, once on your medical records, is kept and used at a later date, despite being against international conventions. Her son was given an ADHD diagnosis on the

strength of two simple tests one of which he could not do because he has flat feet. He was also followed at school and reported on, which severely affected his self esteem.

**Here are some statements from her story on the day:**

- The doctor told me that if I didn't consent to a drug regime for the rest of my life, they would forcibly inject me and take me to the hospital.
- He said "We think the drugs are curing you. We're going to the magistrate now and the drugs are curing you." At that point I produced all the drugs that were given to me. There were about 60 in a cigarette packet and I said "Do you mean these drugs?" And I was released on the spot.

Commissioner ROGER FRENCH asked

***"At any stage did any psych talk to you about nutrition?"***

**Answer:** "Never. I was only observed."

"I have a history with these people. If I didn't know what I do now before I went in there I would be on a disability pension and having a weekly injection."

"I complained to the HCC they said "We think it may be a communication problem and we've sent your letter to the 3 psychs. They did not contact me"

**Breda Neale** is the daughter of Carole Ann Britt. She was screened at school with a psychologically based questionnaire that she refused to fill out. Many of the girls in her class were upset by the screening questions. She illustrated that the questionnaire actually introverted the girls and made them upset. When she spoke to her principal about this the principal suggested she had an eating disorder. She has since rallied some of the other girls to ether side and is giving a speech at the school to other classes in her grade about her fears.

**Elise Hamer** : Elise came down from school to talk about the same screening process and how upsetting it was for her and other girls. She also gave the story of how her brother got out of doing mathematics by claiming he was depressed and so got extensions on deadlines for his various projects. This testimony backed up everything said by Breda Neale.

**Debbie Randall** is a mother of four children and a parent to foster children. She spoke of how her first child was given an ADHD diagnosis but she did not give him the drug prescribed. He has turned out to be a very successful person. Her second son

was also having troubles at school and the school put pressure on her to put her son on drugs or he would not be allowed to attend school. She refused to drug him.

**Here are some statements from her story on the day:**

“The school counsellor said “I believe your son has ADHD and this drug will assist him.”

“The principal said “Basically this is your only option. And we can’t facilitate your child unless you put him on the drug.”

**Suzi Morgan’s** son was born with genuine medical difficulties which went undiagnosed. He became violent. Eventually she was diagnosed as an unfit mother and authorities tried to take her son away from her. She had to fight in the court system to keep him, this cost her \$30,000. In the last court appearance, the forensic psych “It appears that no-one would have him. He would get worse, and it also appears that his condition was medical all along and his mother was right.”

Later, with the Pfeiffer Protocols mentioned earlier she started to fix the basic body problems her son had and he went from violent to calm and is doing a great deal better. One psych diagnosis was all it took to claim she was an unfit mother.

**Here are some statements from her story on the day:**

“For every diagnosis, there was another drug.”

“I had no idea where to get information.”

“Unfortunately, with all these diagnoses, he was put on different drugs.”

“I did try all those drugs because I did not know what to do.”

Some of the effects of the psychiatric medication that my son was put on were:

Ritalin

- no positive effect only negative
- got facial tics
- made more animal noises
- lost weight

Prozac (about the age of 5)

- became suicidal

Clonidine

- nauseous for 6 weeks
- wanted to sleep

Diagnosed with bipolar

Risperidone

- incontinent (still wearing nappies)
- tics came back
- did nothing to behavior

Aggression

- has stabbed brother with a fork
- tried to strangle girl at school at about 3 years old

“Bio-medicine treats imbalances and puts them back in balance.”

“My son never did have a Ritalin deficiency or a Prozac deficiency he had physical problems that we have addressed.”

“Within 7 weeks of going on the Pfeiffer Protocol my son’s aggression completely stopped.”

“He stated looking people in the eye. He started to read and write for the very first time.”

**Natasha Kelly:** In her late teen Natasha was using marijuana, speed and other illicit drugs. This and other life problems depressed her. Saw a psych, was told she was a ‘depressive’ and had obsessive/compulsive disorder. Self esteem was shattered by this. Also told she had brain chemical imbalance. Natasha was put on various psych drugs which had an extremely bad effect on her. She became very overweight and was told by the psychiatrist that it was her imagination. Her whole life, in her terms revolved around the ‘illness’ and the drug. She stated that every emotion is seen as either an effect of the illness and so is invalidated or is an effect of the ‘medication’ and again is invalidated. Her story showed the complete invalidation of a person through the psych process.

**Here are some statements from her story on the day:**

“Being labeled with a mental illness stops you looking at your real life problems.”

Barbara Allsop is a teacher who explored the difference in teaching from 20 years ago to now. Said she has no kids in her classes with learning difficulties. She said it was just a matter of phonics and making it interesting for the children. Nowadays, teachers are taught psychology, not how to teach. She spoke of the damage done by Whole Language as a method for learning to read and write.

These themes emerged from listening to the various testimonies.

- a) The destruction of self esteem that comes from being given a label; how people are introverted and consider that something is wrong with them sometimes for years, because of the diagnosis.
- b) The irrational aspects of the diagnosis process; at times, in the Commission Hearing the audience was laughing at the silliness of the descriptions given.
- c) The effects of psychiatric drugs and debilitating effects they have on the person taking them.
- d) How much better a person will do once they are beyond the reach of the psychs.
- e) Real solutions offered by good nutrition and a 'whole body' approach to finding the basic body outpoints and correcting them.

These themes occurred over and over again during the day.

Whilst the commissioners were allies of CCHR before the Hearing they were very impressed and even shocked by what they saw and heard on the day. Some comments were:

Roger French: "Brilliantly well organised...willing to continue fully supporting your marvellous work..."

Dr Nazir Gul Daawar: " I think it was very good. Well organised...I feel I am a part of the CCHR family and I will do my best to support CCHR.

Rev. George Capsis: "I think we can work together (in the future) as we have in the past..."

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights NSW is now in the process of putting together a White Paper, which is a report on the testimonies given at the hearing with outcomes and solutions. Our purpose is to have the law changed so the rights of our children are protected and real medical treatment is given not fraudulent psychiatric labels and damaging psychotropic drugs.

We can be contacted at CCHR NSW, PO Box 562 Broadway. NSW or (02) 9211 4787.

Check out our website at [www.nsw.cchr.com.au](http://www.nsw.cchr.com.au)

E mail us at [cchr@nsw.cchr.com.au](mailto:cchr@nsw.cchr.com.au)