

Hands up for the Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Bill

This briefing sheet provides a list of organisations which have decided in the past few days to publicly endorse the Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Bill.

Amid all the noise of the current public debate it is worth reflecting on the names of the organisations and the nature of the work they do within the community.

The debate about the Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Bill has been noisy, even strident and unpleasant. Unfortunately, it has sometimes been characterised by accusations that are inaccurate, misinformed and alarmist.

On the one hand, opponents have argued that the Bill is an unwarranted intervention by the state in family life, will criminalise many parents, will remove a necessary parenting tool, or flies in the face of the will of God.

On the other hand, a very large number of organisations who work with children and families support repeal and made submissions to the Justice and Electoral Committee on that basis.

Many are widely known, either nationally or locally, and some of these organisations have iconic status in our national culture as they touch the lives of generations of children and families in New Zealand.

These organisations work for children's interests in New Zealand. Together they provide services or information to almost every family in New Zealand.

Organisations publicly endorse the Bill

More recently organisations have been making a rational and thoughtful analysis of the *Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Bill* as reported back from the Select Committee. They base their evaluation upon

- international research,
- their knowledge of best parenting practice,
- their understanding of human rights.

Many organisations have decided to publicly endorse the *Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Act* sponsored by Sue Bradford and recommended by the majority of the Justice and Electoral Select Committee. Is it likely that all these organisations are misinformed, wrong, or misguided?

The list of organisations on the next page does not pretend to be comprehensive.

This briefing sheet has been provided by the following organisations —

- Barnardos NZ
- EPOCH NZ
- National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges
- Plunket
- Save the Children NZ
- Unicef

Thanks to MPs

These organisations express their deep gratitude to MPs who support this Bill.

They believe that the Bill's successful passage will in time contribute very significantly to many children having more positive childhoods.

The organisations

As at 21 March 2007 these organisations publicly endorse the Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Bill.

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| Barnardos New Zealand | National Council of Women of New Zealand | Your Day Trust |
| Royal New Zealand Plunket Society | NZ CCS - Community Disability Support | United in Civil Union Trust |
| The Children's Commissioner Families Commission | Paediatric Society New Zealand | OMEPA Aotearoa/New Zealand |
| Children's Issues Centre, University of Otago | New Zealand Association of Counsellors | Peace Movement Aotearoa |
| UNICEF New Zealand | Christchurch Methodist Mission | Soulway Church Masterton |
| Save the Children New Zealand | Christchurch Resettlement Services | Hauraki Safety network |
| Every Child Counts | Home and Family Society Christchurch | Home and Family Counselling Auckland |
| EPOCH New Zealand | Waipuna Youth and Community Trust | North Shore Women's Centre |
| Child Poverty Action Group New Zealand | Christchurch Women's Refuge | Nelson Rape and Sexual Abuse Network |
| Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa | Quaker Peace and Service | Across Social Services (Palmerston North) |
| Parent Centres New Zealand Inc. | ParentingWorx | Stopping Violence Services Nelson |
| Parenting Council New Zealand | Starfish Charitable Trust | Parent and Family Counselling Service, Whangarei |
| Presbyterian Support New Zealand | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom | Violence Free Waitakere |
| Relationship Services | Queenstown Lakes Family Centre | YouthLaw |
| Wesley Community Action Jigsaw | Inner City Group for Men | The Body Shop |
| National Network of Stopping Violence Services | Human Rights Foundation | Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre |
| New Zealand Family Planning Association | Te Ruru Resources | Start Inc |
| New Zealand Psychological Society | Child Helpline Trust | Motu Weka Early Learning Centre |
| | National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges | Childspace Early Childhood Institute |
| | Childspace Early Learning Centres | Alternatives to Violence (Waikato) |