

Good parenting should not be criminalised ^{3/10/06}

Editor,-

Recently the Porirua City Council passed a resolution supporting Green MP Sue Bradford's bill to repeal S59 of the Crimes Act.

Besides this having nothing to do with council matters, in passing this resolution they foolishly followed propaganda from pro-repeal people who have spread lies and misinformation regarding S59 far and wide.

One instance only. When it is pointed out that if repeal occurs, parents will risk a charge of assault if they cor-

rect their children in any way, Bradford and co scoff and say such things as 'police simply would not charge someone for mildly physically admonishing their child' or say police do not have the resources to charge all parents who smack and therefore they won't.

Such comments completely miss the point, in fact they are disingenuous.

A thief, or a drunk driver, or a murderer, are all criminals whether they are caught, or charged, or not. The activity is criminal activity and any person who

does it is a criminal, end of story.

In precisely the same way, if Section 59 is repealed, then the use of force - any force - by a parent towards a child by way of correction, will legally become assault - criminal activity - whether the parent is charged, or not.

As the training, correction and disciplining of children all require the use of force, all parents, especially good parents, will by definition be turned into criminals by repeal.

This is not an extreme,

statement, but one of sober fact, and is a sufficient reason by itself to ditch Bradford's perverse bill.

Should good parenting be criminalized? Absolutely not! However, the Porirua City Council, in true PC manner, thinks they should.

This shows both that the council does not have the insight to distinguish between propaganda and truth, and is most definitely not family nor child friendly.

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