

HELP FIGHT THE HOME INVASION!

What will these petitions accomplish?

By collecting signatures on these petitions we can force Parliament to hold referendums on both issues.

What is a referendum?

A referendum is where the questions are included in the voting papers at the elections in 2008. Then all New Zealanders on the electoral role will have their opportunity to answer 'yes' or 'no'.

Why have a referendum on these issues?

The government has ignored the polls and our protests, but one poll they won't be able to dispute is a referendum. We must ensure that this anti-family law and child abuse problems become an election issue.

But doesn't the amendment negotiated by National mean that "a smack within the context of loving parental correction" is not going to be a crime?

No. The amendment simply says they *may not be prosecuted* if the police think the force is "inconsequential" (not yet defined) and "not in the public interest". However, there is public interest by anti-smacking groups to ban all force. Section 2 and 3 clearly state that any parent using any force for "correcting" their child will be breaking the law. If a complaint is made, the police still have an obligation to investigate, then they may send notification to CYFS if it is established some force has been used. This is police practice where a complaint involving a child is made.

What will CYFS response be when notified by the police?

Based on existing complaints about how the department has used its considerable powers, the likely outcome of this new law is that CYFS social workers will be entering the homes of responsible families to investigate.

Why collect signatures on two petitions at the same time?

We want to make sure that while we oppose the ban on smacking, we also address the problem of child abuse. The second petition is to promote positive constructive action. A parenting education campaign would achieve much more positive results than passing a law that will make criminals out of good parents who use appropriate discipline to train their children.

Do we really want the Government to solve the problems?

It would be pointless to put all our hope in the Government to solve all our problems. If we want a better country to live in, the first step is to look at what we as individuals, families and communities need to do to ensure we are raising healthy and socially balanced children. The Government does have a role to play and there is more that can be done.

What do you expect to happen if the referendum on family breakdown, family violence and child abuse is supported by a good majority of New Zealand voters?

It is our intention to take the lead by having wide consultation with the many community organizations, charities, NGO's and religious groups that are supporting this petition. To create a general agreement such as a 10-15 point action plan of realistic proposals for Government implementation. Political parties will then either adopt some or all of these points. New Zealanders will then have the opportunity to express their support or otherwise through the referendum and general election in 2008.

How many signatures are needed?

We need over 300,000 signatures to force a referendum which is 10% of the electoral role.

How long do we have to collect them?

We have until 1 March 2008.

Who can sign the petition?

Eligible people must be at least 18 years of age and a permit resident of New Zealand.

Where can I get other information?

Email: CIRPetition@xtra.co.nz.

Remember

Fill the forms in clearly. If the names and addresses can't be read, the clerks will not count them.

Post petition forms to:

PO Box 9228

Greerton

Tauranga

If you have collected signatures, please cut this portion off and send it in along with the signed petition forms

✂.....

NAME OF COLLECTOR:

ORGANISATION/GROUP:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

CITY:

PH: HOME.....OTHER.....

Petition of Sheryl Savill for a Citizens Initiated Referendum

To the House of Representatives, we, the undersigned, pursuant to the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993,
ask that an indicative referendum be held on the following question:

“SHOULD A SMACK AS PART OF GOOD PARENTAL CORRECTION BE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE IN NEW ZEALAND?”

	<small>(Print clearly in BLOCK letters)</small>			<small>(optional)</small>	<small>(Print clearly in BLOCK letters)</small>
	Signature	Surname or Family Name	Given or First Names	Birthdate	Residential Address
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C/- Larry Baldock. P.O. Box 9228 Greerton Tauranga

The wording of the question printed above, and this form, have been approved under the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993.

Petition of Larry Baldock for a Citizens Initiated Referendum

To the House of Representatives, we, the undersigned, pursuant to the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993,
ask that an indicative referendum be held on the following question:

**SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT GIVE URGENT PRIORITY TO UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING
THE WIDER CAUSES OF FAMILY BREAKDOWN, FAMILY VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE IN NEW ZEALAND?**

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