



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Mums Still Smacking, Want Law Change not Discretion - Poll**

Family First NZ says that almost half of our mums of young children have admitted smacking illegally in the past 12 months, and three out of four mums want the government to adopt a law change rather than rely on police (and CYF) discretion.

These are the key findings of research commissioned by Family First NZ. The Curia Market Research poll surveyed 1,000 people, and also found continued confusion over the legal effect of the law.

“This poll confirms that the Prime Minister has not reassured parents. They are still concerned that he is willing to retain a law which he admits is a ‘dog’s breakfast’, badly drafted, extremely vague, and had to whip his MP’s to support.”

“Immediately following the referendum last year, polling showed 52% wanted a law change and 27% supported no law change but greater discretion as suggested by the PM. That has now almost returned to the 80% benchmark of opposition to the law that has been present for the past 5 years.”

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### **KEY FINDINGS**

**Extensive support for a law change across all demographics (4 out of 5 people)**

**3 out of 4 say the law is not at all likely to help reduce the rate of child abuse**

**Only 1/3’rd of respondents actually understand the law correctly**

**45% of mums of under 12’s have smacked illegally in past 12 months**

**1/4 of mums more likely to vote for political party that commits to changing law**

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“A law that requires so many compromises, guidelines, helplines, reviews, and parent education could be easily fixed with a simple amendment. That’s what parents deserve, what they want, and what the politicians should respect and act on,” says Mr McCoskrie.

As a result of this poll, Family First is continuing to call on the government to adopt ACT MP John Boscawen’s private members bill which is similar to National MP Chester Borrow’s proposed amendment. National MP’s were supporting this amendment until they were whipped to vote for Sue Bradford’s bill at the last minute.

The poll was conducted between 24 and 28 March 2010 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.2%.

**ENDS**

***For More Information and Media Interviews, contact Family First:***

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