

WE DON'T HIT KIDS HERE

New Zealand has passed a law to make our country better for children. From July 1 2007 the law protects children from assault, like every other person in the country.

Parliament recently amended the Crimes Act so that using force against a child for the purpose of correction is no longer permitted.

It is illegal for anyone to hit, or otherwise assault, a child in the name of discipline, or for any reason.

It is legal to restrain a child to prevent harm to themselves or anyone else, or to prevent them causing a disturbance.

Police have discretion, as in all assaults, to prosecute or not if a child is lightly smacked.

This is a triumph for child protection and safety.

New Zealanders can be proud that we can again count ourselves among the countries of the world that lead the way on better protection for children.

New Zealand now complies with Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which we signed up to in 1993.

“Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them”

“Children are Unbeatable: 7 Very Good reasons Not to Hit Children”

This free booklet is available from:

UNICEF NZ www.unicef.org.nz,

Office of the Children's Commissioner www.occ.org.nz or

Families Commission www.nzfamilies.org.nz