

MEDIA PACK

Ruby Harrold-Claesson

brought to NZ by
Coalition Section 59

For more information contact the Media Co-ordinator

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Coalition Section 59



P.A.N.I.C



www.section59.org

***Society for the Promotion of
Community Standards (SPCS)***

**Over 150 families, individuals, community and
lobby groups.....**



Ruby Harrold-Claesson – Swedish Lawyer

Ruby was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and runs a private law firm in Gothenburg. She works with family law, e.g. guardianship cases and cases dealing with parental rights, criminal cases etc. Ruby defends families in Sweden who are being prosecuted and who are having their children taken from them under the Swedish no-smacking legislation.

She has founded and chairs the Nordic Committee for Human Rights, www.nkmr.org <<http://www.nkmr.org>> (click the Union Jack for English site), composed of lawyers from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark who are also concerned about the level of social damage such legislation is causing in their respective countries. **Read** her article http://www.nkmr.org/english/smacking_and_the_law_a_european_perspective.htm. Ruby Harrold-Claesson has referred several cases of breaches of Human Rights to the European Commission for Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Ruby says the destruction of families in Sweden is horrendous.

"It has ruined families and ruined children. The children in Sweden are incredibly badly behaved. They have no discipline at home and no discipline in schools. I have seen a child kick his father repeatedly and all that man could say was 'you shouldn't do that'. I've dealt with cases where parents are so frightened of imposing any form of discipline that they have given up all responsibility; they say 'I can't stop my child running around at night, so if something happens to them it's not my fault'. As far as I'm concerned parents are adults, and adults decide what is a reasonable level of discipline. By taking away their ability to do that, you breed a new generation of wild, ill-disciplined Vikings - and that is what we have here. We in the Nordic Committee of Human Rights are completely against child abuse. We say this law is unnecessary because there has always been a law to punish child abuse - assault and battery. This law saying a parent should not smack their child goes beyond all rhyme and reason."

She is coming to NZ to testify before the NZ Select Committee hearing submissions on the repeal of s59 of the Crimes Act (the anti-smacking Bill of Green MP Sue Bradford.)

Ruby will be in New Zealand from Wednesday 19th July until Monday 1st August and will be available for media interviews.

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MEDIA RELEASE
16 JULY 2006

Polls show overwhelming support for retaining s59

<i>STUFF</i> website July 2006	82%	(6700 votes!)
<i>TVNZ</i> website July 2006	78%	
<i>Bay of Plenty Times</i> May 2006	83%	
Child Abuse Conference Feb 2006	82%	
<i>STUFF</i> website Feb 2006	84%	
<i>Dominion Post</i> Feb 2006	82%	
<i>STUFF</i> website March 2005	86%	
<i>NZ Herald</i> July 2005	71%	
<i>STUFF</i> website June 2005	82%	

Polls over many years and through various means (not just web-based) have averaged **81% support** for good parenting skills including the ability to smack when appropriate, a technique tested over many generations and proved to succeed.

The voters in these polls were recipients of this type of discipline when they were kids – are now parents themselves - and are the first to acknowledge that it is effective, doesn't cause psychological damage(!), doesn't turn people into violent criminals, and is totally different to child abuse!!

The only groups who are out of step with NZ parents are government-controlled or government-funded organisations like the Children's Commission, Family's Commission, Human Rights Commission, and groups like Barnados, Plunket, Save the Children, UNICEF and others - ironically groups who should be protecting the interests of families!

We call on MP's to acknowledge the common sense of kiwis, to support good parents doing a great job by rejecting Sue Bradford's bill, and to tackle the real contributing factors to child abuse like drug abuse, family breakdown, domestic violence and poverty.

Education is needed for the few parents and caregivers who can't, or won't, acknowledge the difference between smacking and child abuse. But please don't penalise all good parents because of a few rogue ones.

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SWEDISH CASE LAW

The following Swedish cases will serve as examples of what happens to good parents when smacking and parental discipline is banned. Ruby Harrold-Claesson will be able comment on these cases in more detail.

1 - Teacher Case I

(NR B 247/84, Judgement DB 294 (District Court); B 245/84 Judgement nr DB 2029, Court of Appeal)

This was the first case that received media attention world-wide, and dates from 1984.

The facts of the case are as follows: A boy had placed his little brother on the back of his bicycle several times that day and ridden off down the street. The father had warned him about the danger of taking his little brother on the bicycle and cycling through the Saturday morning traffic with him. He also warned that the spokes could injure the small boy's foot. But the boy took no notice of his father. After a while, the boy returned home with his little brother who was crying because his foot had got caught in the spokes. The father confiscated the boy's bicycle and locked it away. He then took the boy into the house and gave him three smacks on his bottom with some twigs.

The father in Gällivare, in the north of Sweden, a teacher, was prosecuted for, and found guilty of assault of his 12-year-old son, because he had smacked his son.

The Court of Appeals admitted that the father had all reason to be angry at his son because the boy had openly disregarded and disobeyed his parents' orders NEVER to toe his little brother on his bicycle. However, the Court of Appeals maintained that, no matter what a child does, the law guarantees that he should never be smacked by his parents.

2 - The Hungarian Case

(Kristianstad District Court Case no. B 169/85 Verdict DB 247; District Administrative Court in Kristianstad Case no. Ö 291-84 & Ö 136-85)

A child had been fighting with the other children at school and had even bitten a teacher. Kristianstad District Court issued a suspended sentence against a Hungarian man for having smacked his seven-year-old son. The child was removed from their home and placed in social custody.

Psychiatric care was recommended both for the boy and the chastising father.

3 - The American Case

(Solna District Court B 340/85 verdict DB 372, District Administrative Court in Stockholm case no. Ö 2123-84)

Solna District Court sentenced an American residing in Sweden for maltreatment of his 15-year-old daughter and the girl was taken into social custody. The father had smacked her on her bottom with the palm of his hand one morning

when she had locked herself in the bathroom and prevented the other members of the family from getting ready to leave home for their daily routines.

The girl was raped while at the institution. Her parents reported the matter to the police, but the matter was not investigated.

4 - The Yavari case

The Yavari case took place in 1988 and was for several weeks recurring front-page news in the evening newspaper *Göteborgs Tidningen (GT)* and the Christian newspaper *DAGEN "The Day"*.

A simple question from the little four-year-old Yavari girl to her day-carer gave rise to a nightmare experience for the Yavari family. The little girl asked her day-carer if her son would get a smacking because he had done something pretty nasty. The day-carer, employed by the community, came to the conclusion that the Yavari children must have been accustomed to being beaten i.e. "maltreated in their home". She therefore made a report to her employer, and the employer in her turn made a formal report to the social authorities in Götene. All three children in the Yavari family were immediately taken into social custody and taken to hospital for examination. A series of doctor's certificates stated that the children showed no signs of bruises or beating.

The chairman of the social authorities refused to drop the case so the Yavaris' took their children and fled to England.

5 - The Sandviken Case

(Stockholm District Court Verdict 2/12 1988; Svea Court of Appeals T 7/89)

On April 28, 1983, the president of the social district council decided to take a five-year-old child into public care, alleging that the father had ill-treated the boy. The boy had blisters and scars on his body, which looked like cigarette burns.

The boy was placed in hospital for examination. The blisters appeared even there! The father was accused of sneaking into the hospital and inflicting wounds on his son.

But the child had a skin disease, Atopia. The father suffered from the same disease, too. However, no one listened to the explanations given by the parents.

The social workers forced the parents to divorce, if the mother wanted to get her child back. They divorced. After many medical examinations a specialist confirmed that the boy had a skin disease. The strain and stress of the custody and divorce cases induced a nervous breakdown in the father.

The father then sued the Swedish State, the Commune and the Health Board for the suffering he had been inflicted. The Courts granted him substantial damages but he had lost his health and family life forever.

6 - Teacher case II

(B 2637/92 Gothenburg District Court)

In September 1992 a teacher was convicted and fined for having maltreated his 12 year-old son. The parents - both intellectuals - had made certain rules as regards the tidying of the children's rooms and watching the Tele. The children were not allowed to watch TV all evening, and their TV-time was restricted to 2 hours per evening including playing computer games. It was a controversy about watching the Tele that triggered off the happenings on April 9.

The father told his son to turn off the Tele and empty the garbage. The boy refused to comply, so his father turned off the Tele, removed the boy bodily from the sofa, put the garbage bag in his hand and shoved him towards the door. The boy cried and the following day he went to the police and reported being beaten and kicked - that he had been maltreated by his father.

The boy informed his father that he had reported him to the police, and the father explained what the consequences could be. The boy rushed off to the police station to withdraw his statement but instead, that resulted in the father also being charged for "interfering in due process". Because of the psychic press on the family, the father did not appeal the case.

7 - The Refugee Mother Case

(B 4477/92 Gothenburg District Court)

On December 10, 1992 a 23 year old sole-parent and refugee, mother of two girls aged seven and six years, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for having smacked her younger daughter. The young woman came as a refugee from Eritrea and her children came to Sweden in May 1992. She was not informed about the existence of the anti-smacking law.

The younger daughter was very stubborn and kept on picking fights with her older sister, who was having an attack of asthma. The mother intervened and, at the end of her tether, when the little girl would not stop fighting, she smacked her. The child bore marks on her body the following day when she was taken to the childcare centre to be vaccinated. The children, who knew no Swedish, were immediately taken into social custody and placed in an orphanage.

The mother was held in arrest for seven days. She was released on bail because she had refused to eat. However she was forbidden to make contact with her children for another six weeks. The children thought that the police had taken their mother and executed her, just like the Ethiopian police did with people during the war.

The case was appealed to The Court of Appeals for Western Sweden, where her sentence was mitigated - the verdict was: 6 months imprisonment.

8 - The Pre-school teacher case

(B 5050/92 Gothenburg District Court)

This is a case about a young Finnish mother who is accused of maltreating her 12 year old daughter who always kept on stealing and running away from home. The mother and daughter have been living in Sweden for 6 years and the child was emotionally disturbed because of alleged sexual abuse from her father (the parents divorced before mother and daughter moved to Sweden).

Once when the girl had run away from home she was taken care of by the police and the social authorities in Falköping. The girl then said that she was afraid to return home because her mother would be angry with her for having run off once again, that her mother would perhaps smack her.

The policeman then advised the girl of her rights according to the law, and that her mother was not allowed to even lay a finger on her - only talk to her. She was also encouraged to go to the police and report her mother if ever she should lay hands on her.

A few weeks later, the girl ran off once again and when she finally returned home late that night she was very provocative. Her mother became angry and slapped her face. The girl went to the police the next morning and filed charges against her mother.

The mother was found guilty of maltreatment and issued a suspended sentence on March 23, 1993.

9 - The Bosnian Refugee Case

(Landscrona District Court; Case no. B 163/96)

On June 12 1996, Landscrona District Court sentenced a Bosnian refugee mother to a suspended sentence and a heavy fine, for having hit her 15 year old daughter with a belt on the evening of October 9, 1995.

The mother had asked her daughter to go to the washroom in the basement of the apartment building they inhabited, to collect the family's laundry. A neighbour took the laundry basket up to the family and told the parents that there was no one in the washroom. The girl returned home a few hours later. She had gone to see a friend.

Her mother became angry with her because she had not done what she was told to do. After a short exchange the mother grabbed a belt hanging in the hall and hit the girl.

The social authorities removed the girl from the custody of her parents and placed her in a foster home. The address where the girl was placed was held secret from her parents. According to the information in the social investigation, the parents said that the girl could move back home to them, but that she would have to follow the rules set down by them and that they were going to smack her anytime she broke any rules.

At the interrogation the father asked the police what they as parents should do when their 15 year old was disobedient and misbehaving. The police advised the parents to consult the social workers!

10 - The parents in Stockholm

(Southern Roslags District Court; B 2549-98)

On December 10, 1998, the Southern Roslags District Court sentenced a mother and adopted father to two months imprisonment each for having smacked their six year old daughter between January 1, 1997 and November 27 1997. The parents were also sentenced to pay a fine and to pay damages to their daughter.

The parents disputed the charges but both admitted to smacking the little girl. The child was always given three warnings before she was smacked. They informed the Court that the reason why they used a shoe-horn instead of their hand, is because the hand represents love, not punishment.

Southern Roslags District Court wrote in its verdict, the following:

" The ill-treatment of V has taken place in her home during a long period of time and it has been planned and systematic. Even if the injuries have been relatively slight, the deeds must be judged as assault and battery, due to the conditions we have stated above. Assault and battery is a crime of the sort that is punished by prison. To this must be added the fact that the assault was perpetrated on a child by her mother and step-father for almost one whole year.

The reasoning of the Court concerning the damages awarded to the child is as follows:

"Because of the outcome of the case (the parents) will have pay damages to (the child). The assault that she has been exposed to has, upon an objective evaluation, caused her a serious violation of her personal integrity. The fact that (she) is so young that it makes it difficult to make a closer evaluation of her subjective experiences of what she has experienced, does not exclude her right to be rewarded damages for the violation."

The social authorities investigated whether or not the child should be taken into care, but despite the conviction, the District administrative court decided that she should remain in her parents care!

11 - The Sunne Cases I & II Aggravated Harassment - Disturbance of Peace (2002)

Sunne District Court Case no. B 306-02

On October 16, 2002, Sunne District Court sentenced a father to suspended sentence and a fine for aggravated disturbance of the peace of his two daughters born in 1989 and 1993.

The father admitted that he has slapped the children with an open hand on the backside, taken hold of their arms and ears and shouted and sworn at them. He emphasized that this has only occurred rarely

The Prosecutor pleaded that the father should not be prosecuted for specific acts, but instead be sentenced for gross violation of personal integrity.

The Court decision said *"The father is guilty of violation of integrity and various types of assault. The particular acts themselves were of a less serious nature. However, this is a question of crime committed by a father against his*

children, who were living in his care and who were dependent upon him. Furthermore, the crimes have been committed on a number of occasions and over a long period of time. This leads the Court to the conclusion that each and every one of the deeds constitutes a part of a repeated violation of the children's integrity. Such a long and continuous form of cruelty to children as the father has subjected (XX and XX) (his daughters) to, is generally considered to lead to a seriously damaged self-image. The father must have been aware of this.

12 - The Father of seven in Skåne "Gross Harassment" (2003)

Lunds District Court, Case no. B 4084-03, Verdict November 27, 2003

On October 16, 2003, the social council in the southern Sweden municipality Svalöv decided to take seven brothers and sisters into public care. Their father had been accused and prosecuted for "gross disturbance of the peace" of his children. He was arrested and confined pending trial.

The mother was not accused of any misdemeanours, yet five of the children were immediately placed in foster care.

The father was completely acquitted in the Criminal court. However, the social council proceeded in the care case and on December 18, 2003, three weeks after his acquittal, the Administrative County court ruled in favour of the social council and against the children and their parents.

On June 30, 2004 the parents applied to the social council to have the care order lifted. The mother, who was then pregnant with child no. eight has had to keep out of the way of the social workers for fear that they would take the baby at birth and she has had to avoid meeting her other children. The baby was born in September 2004. In order to protect her newborn the mother moved to a neighbouring municipality, yet on January 19, 2005 the social council that decided to take the couple's seven children into care decided to take the newborn baby into care.

The parents are still (2006) fighting court battles to reunite with their children.

13 - The American father in Borås 2003

A father, an American married to a Swede, is suing his employers and a colleague for seditious libel. The incident took place August 2003 when his daughter - and only child - was 6 yrs old. The colleague had spoken to the little girl, who was visiting her dad at his work-place, and asked her if her Daddy smacked her. The colleague then contacted BRIS (Children's Rights in the Society) and after that she discussed the matter with the employer. The following week the Personnel Manager made a formal complaint to the social services that my client abused his daughter.

The social services made an investigation, but they found nothing to report to the police and no reason to take the child into care.

The father has sued his employer and colleague for seditious libel, and is currently on appeal.

END

MEDIA RELEASE

9 APRIL 2006

CYF should not be above the law

Child Youth and Family should not be allowed to penalise parents / caregivers and children by separating them from each other just because the parents / caregivers don't follow a politically correct policy of not physically disciplining children enforced by CYF.

"CYF is guilty," says Bob McCoskrie, National Director of the Family First Lobby, "Guilty of punishing fantastic caregivers and parents who simply enforce strong boundaries as any good parent should. The case of the Eathornes on TV1's *Sunday* programme (9 April 2006) and the treatment of the parents in the infamous Timaru '*riding crop case*' are perfect examples of a government department who think they are above the law of New Zealand."

In the case of the Timaru parents, CYF removed a son from his mum and dad despite the parents being found not guilty of any type of abuse when disciplining, and despite the school admitting that the behaviour of the child had improved dramatically after the discipline.

CYF then put the child on drugs (Risperdal and Ritalin) to modify his behaviour! He was subsequently expelled because of a deterioration in his behaviour. CYF seem to believe that drugs are better than discipline!

In the case of the Eathornes, physical discipline (4 whacks on the hand with a wooden spoon) for vandalism by the boy, costing over \$5,000 to repair, has resulted in the Eathornes considered inappropriate as caregivers for CYF. CYF were willing to rely on the testimony of an at-risk child rather than a couple who have provided a fantastic service for the State looking after these types of kids for many years.

"I would rather have the Eathornes looking after my kids than any CYF Social Worker," says Bob McCoskrie. "The Eathornes seem to be effective parents who love their kids and because they love their kids, know that there are certain types of discipline appropriate to certain misdemeanours."

CYF ideology does not understand the huge difference between smacking and child abuse. They illustrate a bully boy government department who will break up families who uphold the law.

ENDS

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MEDIA RELEASE
12 JUNE 2006

UN document on physical punishment supports retaining s59.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child shows absolute confusion in its latest statement on violence against children. (*Committee on the Rights of the Child – 42nd Session, Geneva June 2006*)

The Committee says that all corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment are forms of violence, and member countries must take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to eliminate them. In the view of the Committee, corporal punishment is invariably degrading and they believe that other non-physical forms of punishment are also cruel and degrading - for example, punishment which may threaten or scare a child. (*article 19*)

This could include such parental action as physically placing a child in time-out, threatening withdrawal of privileges or treats, scaring a child with the possible consequences of wrong behaviour, and perhaps even groundings and telling a child to apologise to another person for rude or anti-social behaviour – which the child may find cruel or degrading!!

But then, in total contradiction, the Committee tells the same countries to respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents to provide, in a manner consistent with the maturity of the child, appropriate direction and guidance! (*article 5*)

This is consistent with the “reasonable” test contained in the current s59.

The document also states that cases of corporal punishment of children by their parents should not lead to prosecution of parents unless there is “significant harm”, and that “prosecuting parents is in most cases unlikely to be in their children’s best interests.” (*clause 40/41*)

Whether the UN Committee intended it or not, this would support the retaining of s59 and the focusing on the real causes of child abuse such as poverty, stress, drug and alcohol abuse and family breakdown (as highlighted by a recent UNICEF report).

Supporters of the repeal of s59 who constantly quote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child could benefit from understanding its underlying message – it is in the best interests of the child to support good parents doing a great job!

ENDS

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MEDIA RELEASE

27 June 2006

Family First calls for resignation of Children's Commissioner

The Family First Lobby is calling for the Children's Commissioner to resign, as a result of her comments regarding child abuse and the Kahui murders. *(Press Release dated 27 June 2006 Commissioner for Children)*

"Politicians, community leaders, and the public (through talkback radio and letters to the newspapers) have been united in identifying the contributing causes to the tragic deaths of Chris and Cru Kahui," says Bob McCoskrie, National Director of the Family First Lobby.

"They have included domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, the stress on parents with new-borns, the role of welfare, transient family living, the need for tougher punishments for convicted child abusers, and what appears from the evidence presented so far, a high level of neglect. The complicity of the extended family is also a major concern."

"These are all the factors which have been identified by UNICEF in their recent report (2004) which focused on the key reasons for child abuse in OECD countries," says Mr McCoskrie. "They identified poverty and stress – along with drug and alcohol abuse – as the factors most closely and consistently associated with child abuse and neglect."

"Yet the first solution the Children's Commissioner can offer is to demand that smacking be banned!"

"This is insulting and demeaning to the vast majority of parents who are able to physically discipline their children without 'beating' them to a horrific death!" says Bob McCoskrie. "To equate parents who discipline their children with a smack, with the horrific murders of the Kahui twins is both inappropriate and unbelievable."

"It shows that the Children's Commissioner is totally out of touch with the reality of family life in NZ."

The only redeeming factor in the Commissioner's press release is her endorsement of Family First's call for better funding and support for non-government community organizations who are at the "coal face".

The Family First Lobby calls on the government to tackle the real issues of our high rates of child and domestic abuse listed above, without being distracted by the Commissioner's faulty conclusions.

ENDS

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SUBMISSION TO JUSTICE AND ELECTORAL COMMITTEE
Crimes (Abolition of Force as a Justification for Child Discipline) Amendment Bill
8 JUNE 2006

Let's protect good parents doing a great job!

Myth 1: The police (and CYF) won't investigate parents for light smacks and removal to "time-out"

Truth:

1. Police Response from Dr A Jack, NM – Legal Services, Office of the Commissioner. *11 August 2005.*
2. **CYF Policy is Zero tolerance to smacking and already actively pursue prosecution.**
 - **Timaru parents**, CYF removed child despite being found not guilty of any type of abuse
 - despite school admitting that behaviour of child had improved dramatically after the discipline.
 - CYF then put the child on drugs (Risperdal and Ritalin) to modify his behaviour! He was subsequently expelled because of a deterioration in his behaviour!
 - **Eathornes**, physical discipline (4 whacks on the hand with a wooden spoon) for vandalism by the boy, costing over \$5,000 to repair. Prosecuted. No longer caregivers
3. Stuart Grieve QC *Investigate Magazine June 2006*

"Q. What is a parent forcibly manhandles a 7 year old to another room to enforce time out. Could that be a prima facie assault? A. Unquestionably. ...Even threat of touching can be assault.

Q. Do you have a fear that it could be used... as a reason to get CYF involved in the family? A. ...This will simply give them more ammunition."
4. Grant Illingworth QC *Investigate Magazine June 2006*

"...almost every form of physical contact with your children becomes an assault as a matter of the criminal law."
5. **Parents could become criminals if they use any force on their child whether it be time out, physical restraint, correction by way of physical discipline, even the threat of physical discipline. That is an unacceptable burden on parents.**

Myth 2: We don't want to ban smacking

Truth:

Green Party MP Sue Bradford "I accept that at this time it's too soon in this country to **criminalise** parents who lightly smack their children, therefore I'm simply wanting to repeal existing (legislation)..... we have a long way to go."

TVNZ's "Eye to Eye" programme

Myth 3: The Smacking ban in Sweden has been good for families

Truth:

- The Swedish law has resulted in hundreds of normal parents being harassed by the police and social authorities, prosecuted, sentenced and criminalised, because they have smacked their children for bad behaviour.

- 1979 law has led to unwarranted interference in private and family life, and has caused serious damage to the relationship between parents and their children
- Parents belonging to ethnic minorities and parents with strong religious convictions, in particular, have been victimised under the 1979 law.
- The social authorities and the courts enforce the law, irrespective of what the child has done.
- When the authorities intervene in the life of a well-functioning family, its life is destroyed. Forced separation
- The law has given rise to cases where children have accused their own parents of ill-treatment

Many Swedish parents are therefore afraid of their children and dare not correct them for fear of being reported to the police, indicted and fined or sent to prison.

Myth 4: Repealing s59 will stop child abusers

"Although most incidents of physical punishment do not lead to child abuse, research has shown that most incidents of child abuse arise from physical punishment" *Commissioner for Children 25 May 2006*

Truth:

1. Although most incidents of driving a vehicle do not lead to a road fatality, research has shown that most incidents of road fatalities arise from driving a vehicle!!!
2. *Otago University Children's Issues Centre 2004 report*
"Occasional physical punishment occurs in many families and may not have long-term negative effects as long as it is used in a climate of warmth and love, where the predominant mode of relating to children is positive."
3. Drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and the breakdown of marriages and families lead to abuse.
Coral Burrows – P / Saliel Aplin and Olympia Jensen murdered by stepfather / Delcelia Witika - alcohol
James Whakaruru / Mereana Edwards / Pirimai Simmond / Lillybing – absence of natural father
Getting rid of s59 won't stop this.
4. **Let's deal with the real causes of child abuse, without penalizing good parents doing a great job.**

Myth 5: s59 is protecting child abusers

Truth:

1. On average, 1.4 cases per year use the defence of s59.
2. Of the 18 cases from 1990 to 2002, only 6 were found not guilty. "Parental Corporal Punishment of Children in NZ" - UNCROC 28 August 2003
3. **6 in 12 years!!!!!!!!!!!!**
4. 4 x 2 was actually a school ruler (30 x 2) similar to a wooden spoon.
5. The supporters of repeal have changed the term riding crop to a horse whip. Horse whip conjures up visions of a long stock type whip, where in fact a riding crop is a small item, about 18 inches long and is designed to give a short sharp sting with no seen physical effects. Even though the evidence showed to the contrary, the media have claimed this was a beating" *Mother charged under s59 Horse Whip case*