



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Referendum? Not with my tax dollars thanks**

Three out of four Kiwis don't believe the "Anti-Smacking Bill" referendum is a good use of \$8.9 million of tax payers' money given that Prime Minister John Key has said the Government is unlikely to change the law, regardless of the result.

The result is the finding of the latest poll from Research New Zealand.

The poll found 77 percent of Kiwis aged 18 years and over didn't support spending money on the referendum, while 18 percent felt it was good use of tax funds, and the remaining 5 percent were unsure.

Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said at a time when Kiwis are being urged to tighten their belts the estimated \$8.9 million bill for the referendum for tax payers hasn't gone down well.

"Despite widespread protest about the so-called "Anti-Smacking Bill" it seems Kiwis aren't willing to spend millions of tax payers' dollars on a referendum.

"It will be interesting to see how these opinions translate to voter numbers in the referendum," Mr Kalafatelis said.

Mr Kalafatelis said of all the demographic differences recorded by the poll, only the gender difference was significant, with males being more supportive of the referendum compared to females (22 percent of males, compared to 14 percent of females).

*The Research New Zealand poll of 481 people aged 18 and over was conducted by telephone between the 17 June and 19 June. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.8 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.*



**Participants over 18 years of age were asked:** *“In August this year, people will get the chance to vote in a referendum on the repeal of Section 59 of the Crimes Act, which is also known as the Anti-Smacking Bill. The total cost of the referendum is expected to be \$8.9 million, but Prime Minister John Key has said that regardless of the outcome of the referendum, the Government is unlikely to change the law. Taking all of this into account, do you believe that this referendum is making good use of tax payers’ money?”*

**Table 1: Opinion of referendum by gender**

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	481	239	242
	%	%	%
Yes	18	22	14
No	77	70	80
Don't know	5	7	5
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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