



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

## Majority reject “unenforceable” anti-smacking bill

Nearly three-quarters of New Zealanders are opposed to the proposed anti-smacking legislation and believe it is unenforceable, Research New Zealand polling shows.

Research New Zealand director Emanuel Kalafatelis said that the poll showed 73% of New Zealanders disagreed or strongly disagreed with the anti-smacking bill, due to be debated again by Parliament on Wednesday (March 28).

The poll also shows that 72% of New Zealanders thought that the bill, if it were to be passed into law, would be unenforceable, Mr Kalafatelis said.

The poll showed very little variation across age, gender, income, ethnicity and whether or not a household included children, Mr Kalafatelis said.

“The one difference that we found was that those aged 15-29 years old were more inclined to support the anti-smacking legislation than those in older age groups. A quarter of 15 to 29-year-olds supported or strongly supported the bill.”

The bill was debated by Parliament on Wednesday 14 March and polling was conducted between 14 March and 23 March.

Participants were asked: *At the moment some new legislation is going through Parliament which will make it illegal for parents to smack their children. Do you agree or disagree with this proposed new smacking legislation?* The results by age group are detailed in the table below:

	Total n=497 %	15-29 n=72 %	30-39 n=89 %	40-49 n=117 %	50-59 n=104 %	60 years and over n=115 %
Strongly disagree	46	29	49	54	50	55
Disagree	27	36	24	21	19	26
Neither agree nor disagree	5	7	9	5	5	0
Agree	13	21	6	12	12	10
Strongly agree	5	4	6	4	10	4
Don't know	4	3	6	3	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

*Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

Participants were also asked: *If the anti-smacking legislation becomes law, do you believe it's enforceable?* The results by age group are detailed in the table below:

	Total n=497 %	15-29 n=72 %	30-39 n=89 %	40-49 n=117 %	50-59 n=104 %	60 years and over n=115 %
Yes	21	22	20	18	29	18
No	72	70	72	73	68	78
Don't know	7	8	9	9	3	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

*Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

*The omnibus survey of 497 randomly selected people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between March 14 and 23. The margin of error is +/- 4.4% (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it's an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was taken as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.*

**Ends**

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