

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Fireworks ban still polarises the country**

While the majority of New Zealanders favour a ban on the public sale of fireworks there has been no surge in support of a ban since last year, Research New Zealand polling shows.

There was speculation this year of increased support for a ban on the sale of fireworks to the public after a one-year-old girl, Mercedes Harrison was badly burnt when a stray fire cracker exploded in her pram on Guy Fawkes night.

However the latest Research New Zealand polling showed that the issue still polarized the country, Research New Zealand director Emanuel Kalafatelis said.

“We found that just over half (53%) of people agreed with a ban on selling fireworks to the public and 42% disagreed. Last year the figures were 55% in favour of a ban and 42% against,” Mr Kalafatelis said.

This year’s poll found women (60%) were more likely to support a ban than men (47%). Older respondents were also more likely to support a ban than younger ones. Mr Kalafatelis said.

Of those aged 15 to 29 years only 30% supported a ban while 69% of those aged 60 years or more were in favour,” Mr Kalafatelis said.

After Guy Fawkes Prime Minister Helen Clark said that distressing accidents such as Mercedes’s burns could tip the balance towards a ban on sales of fireworks. She said public support for the public sale of fireworks would boil over.

And National Party leader John Key said he believed it was inevitable that fireworks would be banned. He said support for fireworks was “slipping away” in Parliament.

*The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between the 13 and 19 November. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.4 % (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.*

Respondents were asked: *Do you agree or disagree that fireworks sales should be banned to the general public?*

### Results by gender

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	223	277
	%	%	%
Agree	53	47	60
Disagree	42	49	35
Don't know	4	3	5
Refused	1	1	0
Total	100	100	100

### Results by age

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	500	79	82	109	89	141
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	53	30	60	54	63	69
Disagree	42	62	33	44	33	29
Don't know	4	6	5	2	5	2
Refused	1	1	2	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding

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