

Prostitution



Prostitution was made legal in New Zealand in 2004, after the passing of the Prostitution Reform Bill. The aim of the Bill was to try and protect the safety and rights of those involved in prostitution. In doing so it made it legal for small brothels to operate in residential areas next to family homes, and failed to protect communities and families from the effects of street and underage prostitution. The Bill was controversial and passed by only a single vote majority.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Care of Children Act



The Care of Children Act made substantial changes to the way family is conceived in law by extending the state's authority over children and diversifying the description of families. Under the new law, parents only have 'day to day care' rather than 'custody' of their children; children's rights were emphasised and prominence was given to children's participation in decision making.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Civil Unions



A new form of relationship was created when 'civil unions' were invented as a new legal category of relationship in 2004. The Civil Union Act made it possible for couples of either same-sex or opposite-sex to formalise their relationship without the religious or historical boundaries of marriage, through a solemnisation ceremony called a civil union. The number of people choosing these unions has been small, showing there was little demand for them.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Marriage Amendment Bill



In 2005, the Marriage (Gender Clarification) Amendment Bill was put before the house. It attempted to clearly define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, in accordance with the common law understanding of marriage. The Bill was rejected making it possible for courts to re-interpret the way marriage is legally understood.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Support

Relationships Bill



Civil Union partners and de-facto couples were given the same rights and responsibilities as married people through The Relationships (Statutory References) Act 2005. The law now makes virtually no distinction between these different groups, with marriage no longer having the unique or special status it deserves.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Anti-Smacking Law



In 2007, Section 59 of the Crimes Act was amended, removing legal protection from parents who exercise reasonable discipline over their children in the form of light physical punishment. The amendment makes parents who engage in such discipline liable for prosecution and unwarranted intervention by CYF. Meanwhile the actual root causes of child abuse, as identified by UNICEF and CYF reports, remain. The law was passed despite more than 80% of New Zealanders opposing it.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

Parental Notification



Currently in New Zealand, girls under the age of 16 can have an abortion, without their parents being informed. In 2004 an amendment to the Care of Children Bill (current section 38) was put forward to prevent this. The amendment would have allowed girls to make the final decision about whether or not to abort the unborn child, but would have ensured this decision did not happen in isolation from their parents. The amendment was voted against and did not pass into law.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Support

Drinking Age



In 2006 a Bill was presented to parliament, to increase the age at which alcohol can be purchased, from 18 to 20. The Sale of Liquor (Youth Alcohol Harm Reduction: Purchase Age) Amendment Bill was not intended to be a cure-all solution to alcohol abuse, but was intended to challenge a liberal environment in which alcohol is easily accessible and too often abused, especially by young people. The Bill was rejected by parliament.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Support

Euthanasia Bill



The "Death with Dignity" Bill would have legalised euthanasia, by allowing people who are incurably and terminally ill, to request and receive medical assistance to end their life. The Bill was introduced in 2003 and was voted against. Pro-life groups advocated the alternative of proper palliative care, as provided by hospices, for management of pain for terminally-ill people.



PRO-FAMILY VOTE
Oppose

For more details on these bills and others which have affected families, plus policies of the political parties concerning other potential family related legislation, go to ↘

www.familyfirst.org.nz