



Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers Inc

Submission to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee on the Child and Family Protection Bill.

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Contact details:

Lucy Sandford-Reed, Chief Executive
ANZASW
Unit C, 375 Main South Road
Hornby
Christchurch

Tel: 03 349 0190

Email: Lucy.Sandford-Reed@anzasw.org.nz

The Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) is the professional body for Social Workers in Aotearoa New Zealand. It was formed in 1964 and currently has approximately 4000 members. Its members work across the spectrum of social work workplaces.

The ANZASW operates under a bicultural model in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Some components of this include: the Tangata Whenua Takawaenga o Aotearoa (Māori caucus), a parallel Niho Taniwha (kaupapa Māori model) competency assessment tool and process, and principles of partnership, participation and protection of rights woven into and throughout the organisational structure. Through this, ANZASW is unique amongst professional bodies in its ability to provide specialist support to Māori members.

Please find below ANZASW comments.

Proposed amendments to Care of Children Act 2004 (Clauses 17 – 28).

We support the proposed legislative amendment strengthening the protection against psychological abuse of children, in line with the Domestic Violence Act.

We also welcome the extension of the courts powers to put in place supervision orders based on considerations of the 'safety' of the child, following the issue of a protection order against a violent party to an application for a parenting order. As this amendment only applies to applications for the day-to-day care, or to have contact with the child, we would encourage a further extension of such powers. Automatic consideration of parenting/supervision orders should be considered when a protection order is issued against a spouse/partner due to domestic violence and where there are known children to the family. This would afford children the appropriate protection and safeguards round contact with a formerly abusive parent without subsequent applications for parenting orders or supervised contacts being sought.