

# Firearms Protection Orders Bill

## March 2022



New Zealand Council of  
Christian Social Services

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| Contact Name:             | Nikki Hurst<br>Rachel Mackay  |
| Organisation Name:        | New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS)   |
| Organisation description: | <p>The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Firearms Protection Orders Bill.</p> <p>NZCCSS has six foundation members: the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.</p> <p>Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 250 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. We believe in working to achieve a just and compassionate society for all, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website <a href="http://www.nzccss.org.nz">www.nzccss.org.nz</a>.</p> |

### Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

We broadly support the kaupapa to reduce access to firearms for violent offenders. The member organisations we represent experience the effects of firearms violence in communities on a regular basis, and we support the efforts to alleviate this stress. We question the scope of application of this legislation, specifically as it relates to the Family Violence Act 2018, as well as capacity to monitor and the efficacy of restricting contact with licenced firearms owners.

Our main points are:

1. Convictions under the Family Violence Act 2018 are not qualifying convictions for an FPO
2. There may be unintended consequences of this legislation in the form of barring offenders' access to people categorically determined to be 'fit and proper'
3. We question the administrative capacity of these FPO, and also if the costs associated with this program may be best spent on preventative policing instead.

### Taunakitanga | Recommendations

#### Item One – Include provisions for conviction under the Family Violence Act 2018

We have an epidemic of violence in our families, with a disproportionate impact on women and children. Family violence resulted in 155,338 police responses in 2020/21, this equates to approximately 16% of all police frontline activity (New Zealand Police, 2021). At an individual level, this violence has generally grown over a period of time, in most cases with its roots in psychological abuse.

The Family Violence Act specifies in section 9 that psychosocial abuse constitutes family violence. Research tells us clearly that psychological abuse is part of the escalation progression common in instances of Intimate Partner Femicide (Monckton-Smith, 2020). Research further indicates that the majority (80%) of victims of physical family violence had first experienced psychological abuse from partners, but physical violence was seldom present without the presence of psychological abuse (Henning & Klesges, 2003).

While physical and sexual abuse under the Family Violence Act would be included in the convictions made under section 86A of the Sentencing Act 2002 per section 39A(a) of the Firearms Protection Orders Bill, we feel strongly that provisions must include all convictions in relation to family violence.

**Recommendation Proposal 1:** We suggest including provisions for convictions under or in association with the Family Violence Act 2018 to be included as qualifying convictions to necessitate an FPO with no exceptions.

## Tohutoro | References

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