



## **Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill**

**Law and Order Select Committee**

**February 2010**

## **Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill**

**Bob McCoskrie – National Director Family First NZ**

- 1.1 **Family First supports the overall direction of the Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill.**
- 1.2 However, we recommend a number of further amendments to the bill in order to achieve the original intent of protecting the public from repeat violent offenders.

### **AMENDMENTS**

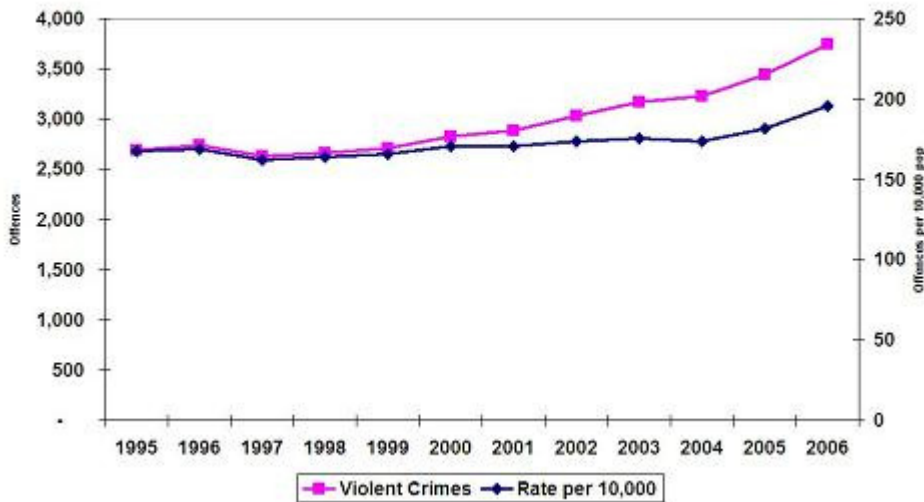
**Family First NZ requests the following amendments to the bill.**

- 1.3 A **'qualifying offence'** should be expanded to include aggravated assaults. The recent spate of attacks on police officers shows that these offences are simply a variation of other violent offences. We must do everything we can to protect both our police and our wider community from violent attacks.
- 1.4 The **manufacture and/or sale of 'P'** (methamphetamine) should be included as a qualifying offence because of its harmful effect and the resulting violence that we see exhibited by users
- 1.5 The **'second strike'** (s86C) should have a **mandatory sentence of imprisonment** determined by the court. It is important to realise that a qualifying offence is a serious violent offence in the first place, and an important aspect of protecting the community is to isolate violent offenders from the rest of society for a period of time.
- 1.6 **Previous violent offences.** Three or less violent offences within the past 10 years would count as one strike. Four or more violent offences within the past 10 years would count as two strikes. Recidivist violent offenders should not be given a clean slate. Families must be protected. Previous behaviour should not be discounted simply because new legislation is introduced.

1.7 The **age limitation** of 18 should be removed so that conviction for any 'qualifying offence' applies irrespective of the age. If we allow a young person to become a career criminal at an early age, we simply victimise both the young person and families in our community. They have two chances to correct their behaviour. Statistics show that almost half of serious youth offenders are repeat offenders. We must redirect their energy towards law-abiding activities.

### YOUTH OFFENDING – Potential “Career Criminals”

Violent Offence apprehensions for 14 to 16 year olds



1.8

1.9 This proposed bill with the amendments above will mean that we will begin the process of putting families first.

**Bob McCoskrie**

**National Director – Family First NZ**

P.O.Box 276-133, Manukau City 2241

09 261 2426 (w) 09 261 2520 (f) 027 55 555 42 (m)

[bob@familyfirst.org.nz](mailto:bob@familyfirst.org.nz)