

# Firearms Prohibition Orders Amendment Bill

April 2024



New Zealand Council Of  
Christian Social Services

## Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on this Firearms Prohibitions Orders Amendment Bill. We support the kaupapa to restrict access to firearms for violent offenders. Our member organisations experience the effects of firearm violence in communities on a regular basis, and knows the harm that unregulated access can perpetuate.

Our main points are:

### **Item One – Expand the applicable convictions to include the Family Violence Act 201**

Family Violence in Aotearoa is our great national shame. 2021 statistics had approximately 16% of all frontline police activity in response to instances of family violence. The Family Violence Act 2018 specifies under Section 9 that psychological abuse constitutes family violence, and while the physical and sexual abuse component of family violence would be included for consideration for an FPO under section 39A(a) of this legislation, psychological abuse would remain excluded. Family violence is an escalating situation, and those who begin with psychological abuse are likely to escalate to physical violence. Removing their access to firearms by making prosecution under the Family Violence Act applicable to making a Firearms Prohibition Order would close this gap.

**Recommendation:** We suggest making conviction under the Family Violence Act an applicable conviction for the making of a Firearms Prohibition Order.

### **Item Two – We support the inclusion of an FPO as a disqualification from being deemed Fit and Proper**

We strongly support the inclusion that individuals who have previously been subject to a Firearms Prohibition Order be disqualified from being deemed Fit and Proper, even after the expiry of the FPO.

## Ko wai tātou | Who we are

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.

Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 230 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 [www.nzccss.org.nz](http://www.nzccss.org.nz).

## Ingoa whakapā | Contact Name

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