

Christian School Association (Wellington District)  
[CSAWD]

# Press Release

19 April 2007

The CSAWD, which owns and operates Wainuiomata Christian College and Silverstream Christian School, has decided to assure the Ministry of Education that our schools comply with Section 139A of the Education Act 1989 which forbids any person other than a parent or legal guardian from using physical correction on children at a school.

"Our schools have good academic achievement, complete success in reading instruction, no problem with bullying, our teachers are not being abused or assaulted, and we have zero truancy. We find it sad that we are threatened with closure by an organisation that runs a school system with major problems in all the above areas."

"The Bible teaches that corporal correction has a place in the loving discipline of children by parents. The Bible also teaches that Christians have a duty to submit to those in authority over them even when they are unreasonable (Romans 13 and I Peter 2:18). We believe that in a free society parents ought to be able to choose the sort of school that suits their beliefs - this law is an unjust intrusion into that freedom and we hope future legislators will exempt private schools from this prohibition."

"We are compelled by the threat of closure to give this assurance about our discipline policy which we believe is a private matter solely between parents and the school. We hope this is not a sign of growing 'nanny-state' interference in the private affairs of citizens."

ENDS

Issued by the Board of the CSAWD.

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