

NZ Herald, 24/4/07, p 14

The report in today's Herald headlined, 'Pair on trial after boy, 3, fatally bashed' is the true face of our child-hitting culture, not what the Section 59 apologists tell us.

In the trial going on in the High Court in Auckland two people are accused of beating a three-year-old to death. The mother's lawyer said she did not intend to kill her son. The Crown Prosecutor says the mother and her partner disciplined the boy by hitting him. The stories of his repeated beatings and of the final beating that preceded his death make harrowing reading .

Will amendment of Section 59 to remove 'correction' as an excuse for hitting children stop this? It is a step toward eventually stopping it, yes.

Dr Ian Hassall