

**Letter to New Zealand Herald, 1/5/07**

**Larzelere**

Dr Robert Larzelere, who claims to be scientific in his support for smacking children makes outrageously unscientific allegations about children's behaviour in Norway since that country introduced a smacking ban (Herald, 1 May 2007). He relies on anecdotes from 'his colleagues' about parents 'not knowing how to control their children'. The unfortunate facts are that in his own country which has a culture supportive of violence toward children there are eight times the number of deaths of children at the hands of their parents than there are in Norway (Unicef report, 2003). There is no scientific evidence that Norwegian children are better or worse behaved than American children. Only that more of them survive their childhood.

Dr Ian Hassall