

TEACH Bulletin

Thorough Education Achieved in a Caring Home

Number 100

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Big Brother Kiro

She is probably just flying a wee kite at present, not the first, to gauge the New Zealand public's feelings. She was also probably hoping to cloud the present political atmosphere with a bit of extra dust so we wouldn't be as focused as she is on the Bill to ban smacking.

Children's Commissioner Dr Cindy Kiro gave an exclusive outline to the Christchurch *Press* in late January of a radical plan to have the state test every New Zealand child four times during childhood to keep tabs on child welfare. Reporter Kim Thomas said, "As part of the proposal....Kiro said she wanted children assessed at milestones in their life as part of an intervention system aimed at preventing children from falling through the cracks."

However you may interpret where these cracks are supposed to be, it is certain that the state agents in the Children's Commission want to know more about your child and mine with an eye to earlier intervention should it be necessary.

Apparently the idea comes from a Scottish initiative, but of course many of us are old enough to recognise it as a variation of the old Communist methods of tracking children behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains to ensure they did not imbibe too much from their parents, were learning their Party lessons well, and got streamed and groomed along the lines selected for them by elite social planners in the Politbureau. It is based on a simple philosophy that one can see played out in many different political climates: nanny state knows best.

In the NZ Plan, Kiro has the state

assess children at birth, around age six, again at 13 and finally when they leave the education system. She has a more comprehensive list of criteria to check than did the old Soviets: health, education and social situation, meaning how affected they are by poverty. If the friendly state check-up agents found that a child had been subject to abuse, was malnourished, was falling behind in school or lived in a family/whanau that didn't have the right income or number of beds and microwaves per person determined by some state agent as indi-

cating a position above the poverty line, the appropriate Government departments would then intervene to put "programmes" in place.

Since government schools are assumed to be on track educationally and do not contribute significantly to any abuse or malnourishment or impoverishment (well, you and I don't get to define these criteria, remember....the state agents do), guess who all this expensive testing and tracking is aimed at catching: yes, we parents, that great mass of unwashed incompetents who the entire behemoth of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services consider guilty until proven innocent. One of the interesting consequences of repealing Section 59 of the Crimes Act, if such a terrible thing should ever happen, is that all parents would be automatically

100th Issue of TEACH Bulletin

The first issue was published back in January 1997, just over nine years ago. That issue talked about ERO reviews coming back after being cancelled by then Minister of Education Dr Lockwood Smith in July 1994; about some legal questions around the annual reports proposed by the MoE (self-incrimination reports, some called them), which were only called for once, at the end of 1996; and a Northland Truancy Officer saying school attendance should be voluntary! Good man!

TEACH Bulletin has proven to be a treasure chest full of historical notes marking the growth and development of home education in New Zealand. Professional Development courses are a regular feature (Coming Events), and show that home educators are very active in self-funded self-

improvement activities, saving the taxpayer even more money. Moves by legislators are outlined, plans of various government ministries are exposed, pieces of legislation and letters from educational officials are all analysed and explained in full, including their implications and what home educators could do about it.

The philosophy behind *TEACH Bulletin* is that Home Educators need to be informed by accurate reporting and in-depth commentary so that each unique family can lobby the government as needed in its own unique way, forcing the state to deal with us not as a block, but as unique families each with an undeniable duty to home educate as we see fit; a duty we hope the MoE will one day formally recognise.

guilty of some form of technical assault against their own children virtually any time there was contact between parent and child.

Kiro has said that radical measures are needed to ensure the well-being of tomorrow's children. She is planning to commit New Zealand to a war to "Make Poverty History." It would appear she hopes to emulate the Scottish example of keeping a central file on every child, detailing significant achievements, problems, developments, events and changes in their lives. Several government agencies will be gathering the information.

Now it is not just government agencies who will be involved...Plunket and Barnardos are connected to the Children's Commissioner's office via a programme called SKIP (Strategies with Kids – Information for Parents), a creation of the Ministry of Social Development. These folks are not objective: a past leader of Barnardos openly boasted at a Wellington conference in July 2004 how she took over the organisation and re-structured staff (fired and hired) so that repeal of Section 59 became the organisation's top priority. Barnardo's website now says,

"Chance to get rid of child assault law," and goes on to claim that Section 59 is nothing more than legalised assault against a section of society. This is simply irresponsible inflammatory rhetoric.

This idea, however, was so exciting to Social Development Minister David-Benson Pope, even though he had not been briefed on it, that he enthusiastically mentioned that early intervention to improve children's welfare was a priority for the Government, and he was always willing to consider suggestions to help in this area. Intervention into the affairs of private families is pretty much taken as a given these days, even though, as practised by CYFs and the Family Courts, it flies in the face of the best of Western Civilisation's legal heritage because it presumes New Zealand parents are guilty of abuse toward children and it is up to the parents to prove their own innocence. Foster parents in New Zealand have proven to be particularly vulnerable and exposed to intimidation and the worst kind of emotional abuse and isolation from CYFs, even when anonymous charges are never substantiated.

are also all for it, even though it has only been operating in Scotland for a year! This simply confirms their ideological commitment to intervention, rather than any objective "wait and see how this works" plan.

It is a little scary, when you stop and think about it, how quickly all these groups validate the idea of intervening into every single family with children, over and above the "normal" interventions already in place, schools being the biggest one and already involved in keeping masses of records on each student...yet no one asks the parents what they think of this intervention.

You can see how such a four-point on-going assessment could hammer home educators of all kinds: un-schoolers and Christian home educators because the children are not **learning** the politically correct curriculum, even though our exemptions are based on **being "taught"** at least as regularly and well, etc." Being mostly single-income families, virtually all of us might fall foul of the poverty guidelines, especially those of us who are a bit alternative or eccentric. Such testing could well be used, as the German authorities have successfully done now in Bavaria, to eliminate "parallel societies" of people who are just too different from everyone else (that is, they don't toe the Party line). Rural children who take no part in sports but instead willingly do four and five hours of work on the farm as well as their home education studies and fill in their spare time tramping in the bush hunting possums and wild pigs with bows & arrows, knives and rifles will be found during these exams to be covered with bruises and cuts and heavy callouses – sure signs of abuse to city slicker bureaucrats.

New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties chairman Michael Bott said any attempt by the Government to gather information through interviews, particularly about issues such as abuse, would be abhorrent and an invasion of privacy.

"It's shades of Big Brother. It would be completely disgraceful for any sort of interview to take place about things like abuse when they

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TEACH Bulletin

is a monthly publication of the Home Education Foundation and is concerned with those things which may impact on home educators. Articles will deal with political developments, statist and professional trends, correspondence with educationalists and other items of general interest to home educators. Information herein is not to be construed as legal advice. Opinions expressed in TEACH Bulletin are those of the writer and should not be assumed to reflect those of the Home Education Foundation Trustees or Board of Reference Members. TEACH Bulletin is available for a subscription of \$16 per year for 11 issues (none in December) or two years for \$30.

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Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and reject not your mother's teaching.
— Proverbs 1:8

New Zealand Principals' Federation president Pat Newman makes it sound as if New Zealand really is a third world country in the midst of some terrible calamity: "I think there is a screaming need to check the health and well-being of all children. The present system seems only to be able to deal with kids in life-and-death situations, but there are heaps of kids in New Zealand who are living in and being brought up in unsafe environments." This casts a mighty long shadow of doubt and suspicion onto just about everyone.

Families Commissioner Dr Rajen Prasad and Beth Wood of UNICEF

Trading Post



For Sale

- Format Writing* (by Frode Jensen) (Year 9+).....\$10
The Elements of Clear Thinking - Wm F McCart (Critical Reading, Accurate Communication, and Sound Reasoning - all with answer booklets; all partly written in in pencil).....\$20 the lot
 Coles' notes for: Dicken's *Oliver Twist*, Shaw's *St Joan*, Shakespeare's *Richard II*; Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons*.....\$2 each
 Penguin Passnotes for Dicken's *Great Expectations*.....\$2
 Progeny Press Study Guide : *A Day No Pigs Would Die*.....\$2
 The Reading Skills Discovery Series Study Guide to *The Wheel on The School* (Grades 4-6)...\$5
A Beka Vocabulary, Spelling and Poetry IV (Year 10).....\$3
A Beka Vocabulary, Spelling and Poetry IV ((Year 5/Std 3) - old style).....\$1
 Bob Jones Spelling 4 - Home Teacher's edition (Std 3).....\$3
 London Montessori Student teacher Nursery course books (entire set of 7).....\$30
The Art of Writing for Young Catholics 4 (unused - Seton).....\$5
Homeward Bound - Kimberley Hahn and Mary Hasson.....\$10
Getting Ahead in Technology (Science projects - primary school).....\$5
The Usborne Book of Science Fun (incl. Fun with Electronics)...\$6
 Linotype handles (x4) and blades x2 :.....\$6
 Embroidery books: *Openwork Embroidery* (DMC); *Hardanger Embroidery* (DMC); *Hardanger for Today* (Coats).....\$2 each or \$5 the lot
Flowers and Leaves (Coats - with transfers unused).....\$3
Teach Yourself Counted Cross Stitch.....\$1
Implementation of Ignatian Education in the Home.....\$2
Microscopes and Microscopic Life - paperback, colour drawings)...\$2
 Two much older high school NZ geography books - plus older NZ Biology for 6th Forms

(Weta,etc) - cost of postage only

Contact:

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(Continued from page 2: **Kiro**)

would be potentially gathering information about a crime. It's an affront to a presumption of innocence," he said. Another reason I'm glad I home educate my children. Aren't you?

(From an article in *The Press*, 25 January 2006, "Proposal to test every child in NZ", <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3550483a10,00.html>)

The Dumbest Thing You Ever Heard

Mike Ferris of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) in the USA asked for and got the following comments described as, "The dumbest thing you ever heard someone say about home education."

Our realtor learned we were home schooling. She commented about the lack of social development that would result, but tried to still be positive by adding, "Even though they couldn't be realtors, thank goodness that there are lots of jobs out there which don't require people skills." — Kara Becker

A stranger said, "Don't you think your children are being deprived of the thrill of buying school supplies at Wal-Mart when everyone else does?" — Austin Family

A friend who is a paralegal at a very busy law firm said, "How can you ever think you can keep up with having four kids at home? Don't they just run you off your feet? I'd be exhausted by the end of the day." — Angela Blackman

My father asked, "Will I have to bail you out of jail for this?" — Pamela Miner

My neighbor was picking my

brain about getting the public school to challenge her first grader. She was concerned because my first grader was already reading while her son of the same age was just learning the sounds of letters. Nonetheless she challenged my home schooling saying my son would still miss out. "It's important for him socially too. He needs to be offered drugs so he can turn them down." — MDT

A New Social Trend in Socialisation

Police removed four under-age prostitutes from Christchurch streets mid January this year as they began a crackdown on young sex workers. "We are doing it for their own protection. They are subjected to not just violence, but also social diseases," Inspector Gary Knowles, of Christchurch police, said. So why don't they criminalise the whole business, especially since the murder of prostitutes Suzie Sutherland, 36, and Anna Wilson, 24, last year?

I suppose most girls learn about this "trade" from TV, magazines and from socializing with their schoolmates and their friends. The Christchurch *Press* reporter filed this heartbreaking story: The mother of a 15-year-old prostitute said she had unsuccessfully tried everything, including informing police and Child, Youth and Family in an attempt to stop her daughter working as a prostitute.

Despite locking the girl in her room, tracking her down on Manchester Street and dragging her home, the teen persisted in escaping to work the streets. If the Crimes Amendment Bill is ever passed and Section 59 gets repealed, the parent would not be allowed by law to lock her up or drag her home...that will be classed as assault....even to prevent such harm to a child, for it is not immediate danger, and the child would claim she is just going up town to meet friends.

This mother constantly told her daughter not to work as a prostitute and hammered home the dangers. "She knows all the risks. She knows one of the girls who got killed, but she and the other girls who do it just

see it as an easy way to make money.”

Knowing her teenage daughter worked as a prostitute was a living hell. “There is no way to describe the hell you go through or the way you feel. You lie awake praying they come home and are not going to be picked up by some freak who will hurt them.”

But this is now a legal occupation, and the argument will be made that one needs training and experience, just as youths have done for generations. The walls of resistance to paedophilia are being worn down, not only by portraying prostitution as a legal, valid occupation at school, not only by proposed laws that would prevent parents from using force to stop children from running away and ruining themselves, but also by the helplessness of mums like this one who found too late that others she let her little girl play with had stolen her heart and her mind. This is the famous socialisation issue, and people tell us that we home educators are far too paranoid about sheltering our children, that we should let them get out in the world and find out about the place for themselves.

I trust few home educators buy that tripe.

(From: NZPA, Child prostitutes were under CYF care, 27 January 2006, <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3553387a10,00.html>)

Coming Events

For updates on this information, see www.hef.org.nz and click Coming Events

March 2006

International Conference Speakers

Dr Jay Wile of Apologia Science
Sally Clarkson of Whole Heart
Ministries

Sally Clarkson, mother of four, all home educated, conference speaker, author of numerous books including *Seasons of a Mother's Heart*. Served with Campus Crusade in Communist Poland, married Clay in 1981. Started Whole Heart Ministries in 1994 to encourage and equip Christian parents. www.wholeheart.org

Dr Jay Wile, Ph.D (nuclear chemistry), B.Sc (chemistry), won several awards for excellence in teaching, has presented numerous lectures on the topics of Nuclear Chemistry, Christian Apologetics, Homeschooling and Creation vs Evolution. Dr. Wile wrote 5 high school science textbooks specifically for homeschooled students. Married to Kathleen and they have a daughter, Dawn. www.apologia.com

Topics: Heart beats of Discipleship, The Mission of Motherhood, Teaching Critical Thinking, Teaching Sciences, Ecohysteria: a Scientist Examines the Environmental Movement.

20-21 March Christchurch

Venue: Beulah Christian Fellowship Church, 140 Springfield Road, Christchurch.

Cost: (See contact.)

Contact: Dot, iew@clear.net.nz

21-22 March Wellington

Venue: Crossroads Community Church, Cnr Kings Cres & Cornwall St, Lower Hutt.

21 March 6:30pm—9:00pm

22 March 9:00am—5:00pm

Children's programme also operating.

Cost: (See contact.)

Contact: Karen Wallen, (04) 905-4018, wallens@paradise.net.nz

24-25 March Auckland

Venue: Manukau Central Baptist Church, 75 Everglade Drive, Manukau City.

Cost: (See contact.)

Contact: Carol, cesbooks@intouch.co.nz or book online! www.firelight.cesbooks.co.nz

Supported by LearnEx, Christian Education Services and CENZ (Christian Education NZ)

Sat 1 April 2006 Education Resource Expo Hamilton

Incorporates Science and Maths Fair.

Time: 10:00am—4:00pm.

Venue: Hamilton Central Baptist Gymnasium, Charlemont Street off Edgecumbe St, between Ulster & Victoria Sts, Hamilton

Cost: \$2 per family.

Leave the kids at grandpa's and come for a leisurely look. Bring cash and credit cards. Food stalls.

Contact: Johanna, Ph. (07) 855-3126, edexpo@xtra.co.nz <http://edexpo.bravehost.com>

Action Station

1. Last chance to write a submission to the Parliamentary Justice and Electoral Select Committee telling them that you oppose the Crimes (Abolition of Force as a Justification for Child Discipline) Amendment Bill. You only need to send TWO copies, not TWENTY! Post to: Justice and Electoral Committee, Parliament Buildings, WELLINGTON, to arrive by 28 February 2006. Further guidelines on submission writing at: <http://tinyurl.com/46u2e>. This matter is far too important to ignore. The integrity of every New Zealand family is at stake. See www.FamilyIntegrity.org.nz. Submission Toolkit at: <http://section59.org> **We have a team of three writing ORIGINAL submissions if you need help with one. Ring us now: (06) 357-4399, Family.Integrity@xtra.co.nz**

2. Contact Family.Integrity@xtra.co.nz, (06) 357-4399, for brochures to distribute to family, friends, church, neighbours.

3. Mark the Coming Events into your calendar!

CRAIG S. SMITH, Editor