

A New Law

Approach: One to one

Level: Year 8

Focus: Understanding the usual steps in implementing a new law.

Resources: None.

Questions/instructions:

A person has an idea for a new law. She wants to have a law that says all people must wear crash helmets when they are travelling in cars or other motor vehicles.

Explain how this idea could be made into a law that all New Zealand people must obey.

PROMPT: *What would have to happen for this idea to be made into a law?*

	% responses
	y8
seeking support from others not in parliament (e.g. public meetings, letters to editor, petitions, action groups)	39
seeking support from local MP(s)	4
seeking support from senior MP(s) (e.g. Prime Minister, Cabinet members)	42
seeking support from other public officials	15
preparation of draft legislation (government or private member's bill)	3
consultation by parliament (e.g. public submissions, select committee hearings)	7
debate/voting in parliament	11
mention stages in parliament (introduction, clause by clause, final approval)	2
majority vote to approve in parliament	8
assent by Governor General	2

Commentary:

Most year 8 students were aware of the need for initial lobbying, but showed little awareness of parliamentary processes.