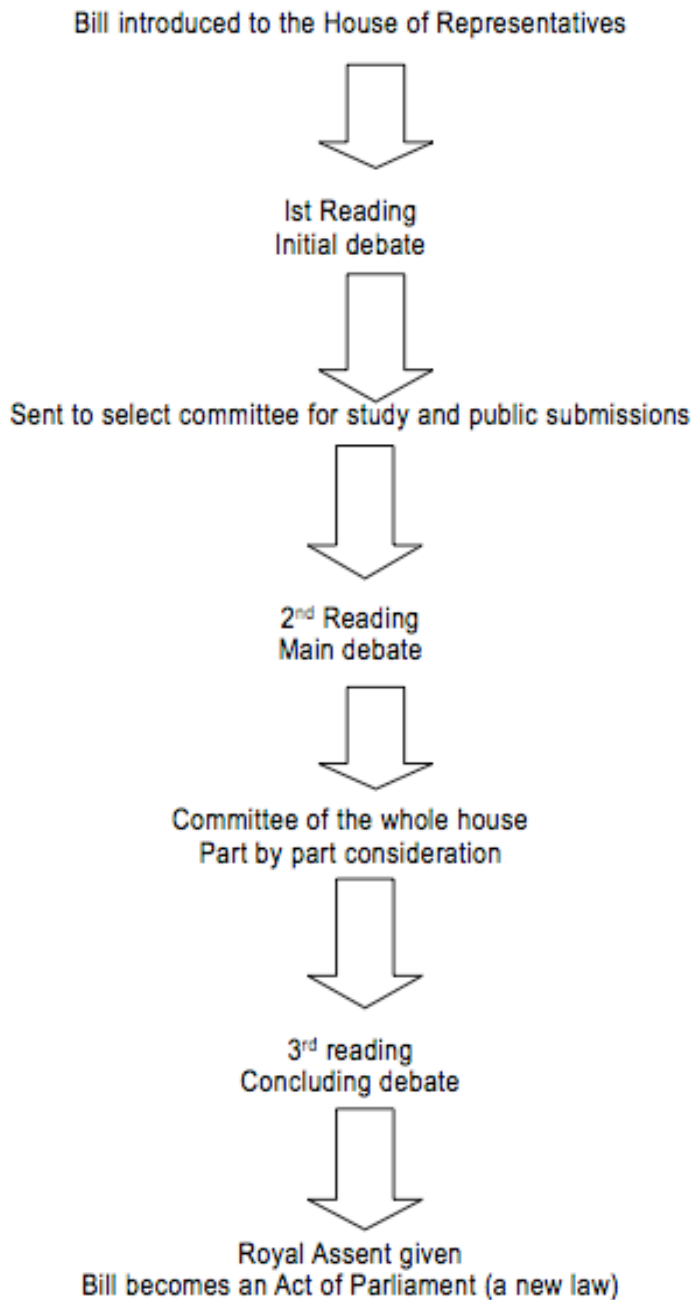

HAVE YOUR SAY

LAW & ORDER BILLS BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEES

Justice and Electoral Committee		
Bill	Description	Submissions due
Domestic Violence (Enhancing Safety) Bill (Hon Simon Power)	Helps combat family violence by enabling police to issue on-the-spot protection orders.	(27 February 2009)
Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Amendment Bill (Hon Simon Power)	Helps clear unsolved crime by enabling police to collect DNA from people they 'intend to charge', and match it against samples from unsolved crimes.	6 April 2009
Sentencing (Offender Levy) Amendment Bill (Hon Simon Power)	Puts victims at the centre of the justice system by requiring offenders to pay into a fund to help victims with costs not available through other means.	6 April 2009
Law and Order Committee		
Bill	Description	Submissions due
Sentencing and Parole Reform Bill (Hon Simon Power)	Provides a 'three-strikes' and you're out policy for serious violent offenders. If the offender is before the court for a third serious violent or sex offence and the court thinks that a sentence of at least 5 years is warranted, the offender will automatically receive a life sentence with a 25-year minimum non-parole period.	24 April 2009
Gangs and Organised Crime Bill (Hon Simon Power)	Targets gangs by doubling penalties for being a member of a gang, and makes it easier for police to intercept their communications.	(27 March 2009)
Social Services Committee		
Bill	Description	Submissions due
Children, Young Persons and Their Families (Youth Courts Jurisdiction and Orders) Amendment Bill (Hon Paula Bennett)	Expands the jurisdiction of youth courts by making 12 and 13 year olds liable for prosecution for certain serious offences (excluding murder and manslaughter). Also expands the range of sentencing orders available to the youth courts.	17 April 2009

HAVE YOUR SAY

OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE YOUR SAY



Make submissions on reviews of the law before the bill is introduced



Make submissions to a select committee about how to amend and improve the bill



Write to the Government and all MPs to explain your view before committee of the whole house stage

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION TIPS

Writing your submission

Address your submission to the Chairperson of the select committee considering the bill or petition. Use the proper format when preparing your submission by following guidance in the parliamentary booklet, *Making a submission to a Parliamentary select committee*

Provide a cover letter addressed to the Clerk of the Committee with your submission and include:

- Your contact details so the committee secretariat can call you, including an email address if you have one
- An indication of whether you wish to appear before the committee to speak to your submission

Provide two copies when you send in your original submission

Contact the Clerk of the Committee if you **do not** want some or all of your submission to be made public.

Submissions will only be accepted if written in English or Maori. If you want to provide a submission in a different language, you will also need to provide a translation into English or Maori. Community Law Centres can assist with writing your submission, with the assistance of translators and the Translation Service.

Explain how you are affected by the proposals in the bill and give examples, if you have them.

Explain what you would prefer to happen, and make recommendations for the committee to consider.

If your submission is detailed, summarise the key points on the front page.

Presenting your submission

If you wish to use a translator at the hearing, make this known in advance to the Clerk of the Committee

At any time you can request that the committee hear your submission in private (without the media or members of the public present).

Be aware that the select committee is often working within tight time constraints. You may need to present your submission at the same time as others, and you may only be given a short time to speak to the committee

Make it count! Explain your point of view clearly and what you would recommend instead as quickly as possible, but without reading from your written submission.

HAVE YOUR SAY

CONTACTING PARLIAMENT

Contacting Parliament about a submission on a bill

The best person to talk to about making a submission to a select committee is the Clerk of the Committee. First you will need to find out which select committee is considering the bill you are interested in. This information is included on the Parliament website (www.parliament.nz) and in newspaper advertisements calling for submissions on a bill.

The main Parliamentary telephone number is (04) 471-9999

Ask to speak to the Clerk of the relevant select committee e.g.

- Clerk of the Law and Order Select Committee
- Clerk of the Justice and Electoral Select Committee

The Clerk can help you with a request for an extension if you have missed the submission deadline for a bill; requests to present oral evidence; questions you might have about appearing before the committee; timeframes for select committee consideration; and information about when the select committee is meeting.

Contacting Parliament about making a petition

The petitions officer at Parliament can assist you with understanding the process for making a petition to Parliament and can give you advice about appropriate wording of your request to Parliament.

Call the main Parliamentary number (04) 471-9999 and ask to speak to the petitions officer in the Table Office.

Sending in your letter or a submission

When you are sending mail to a Minister, or the Chairperson or Clerk of a select committee, it helps to address your correspondence correctly, for example:

Minister of Justice
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Clerk of the Committee
Law and Order Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Chairperson
Justice and Electoral Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Mail addressed to Parliament will be delivered for free if marked 'Free post'

HAVE YOUR SAY

FINDING RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Bills, Acts, regulations

You can find all Acts, bills and regulations free of charge on the legislation website.

www.legislation.govt.nz

Bennetts Government bookshops across the country have hard copies of bills and Acts for purchase for a small fee.

Members of Parliament are each given a small allocation of printed copies of bills, so you could contact your local MP's Office to check if they have any spare copies available.

Information about select committees

The Parliament website summarises what is going on each week at Parliament and in select committees, including the following:

- select committee membership
- Parliamentary calendar (when the House is sitting)
- Timetable of when and where select committees are meeting
- List of bills currently before select committees
- Closing dates for submissions and report deadlines for bills
- The current progress of bills before the House
- Guidance publications for making submission and presenting petitions

www.parliament.nz

A "Parliamentary Bulletin" is published at the end of each sitting week. It summarises what is happening in Parliament in printed form. The Parliamentary Bulletin can be purchased from Bennetts bookshops.

Select committees advertise the closing dates for submissions on bills in the main metropolitan daily newspapers, and sometimes more widely around the country.

Government press release and speeches

You can read Government announcements and speeches made by Ministers about recent proposals from the Government's website

www.beehive.govt.nz

HAVE YOUR SAY

COVER LETTER FORMAT

30 March 2009

Clerk of the Committee
Law and Order Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Dear (x or Clerk of the Committee)

Sentencing (Offenders Levy) Amendment Bill

Please find enclosed my submission and 2 copies on the Sentencing (Offender Levy) Amendment Bill.

I wish to be heard in relation to my submission.

I can be contacted at the following address, phone number and email address-

123 Frame Street
Wellington 6022
Ph (04) 388-8733
jane.doe@hotmail.com

I am happy for my submission to be made publicly available.

Yours sincerely

[Your signature]

Jane Doe (printed plainly)

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION EXAMPLE 1 - in support

7 March 2009

Chairperson
Law and Order Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear (x or Chairperson)

Sentencing (Offenders Levy) Amendment Bill

I am writing in support of the Sentencing (Offenders Levy) Amendment Bill, which I think is a great initiative.

I have been a victim of crime myself and have not received any payments from the offender even though the court ordered him to pay me \$500.00.

I am in favour of the idea that the money from the levy be paid towards a victims organisation. I hope that it will be Victim Support because they were of great assistance to me during my own experience with the justice system.

If you aren't including a cover letter you could say:

[I do not wish to be heard in relation to my submission.]

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely

[Your signature]

Jane Doe (printed plainly)

HAVE YOUR SAY

SUBMISSION EXAMPLE 2 - opposed

7 March 2009

Chairperson
Law and Order Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear (x or Chairperson)

Sentencing (Offenders Levy) Amendment Bill

I am writing to oppose the Sentencing (Offenders Levy) Amendment Bill, which I think has many problems associated with it.

I have been a victim of crime myself and have not received any payments from the offender even though the court ordered him to pay me \$500.00.

I do not believe it is likely those who commit crime will pay the levy. If this bill becomes law I believe that more time and tax payer money will be wasted on chasing up these payments.

I would recommend that the Government continue to fund groups like Victim Support who support the community. They were of great assistance to me during my own experience with the justice system.

[I wish to be heard in relation to my submission.]

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely

[Your signature]

Jane Doe (printed plainly)
Jane.Doe@hotmail.com
Ph (04) 355-6785