

**Explanatory note**

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

## Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Education Act 1990* to allow special education in ethics as a secular alternative to special religious education at government schools.

## Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

**Clause 3** amends the *Education Act 1990* by inserting proposed section 33A. The proposed section declares that special education in ethics is allowed as a secular alternative to special religious education at government schools.

If the parent of a child objects to the child receiving special religious education, the child is entitled to receive special education in ethics, but only if:

(a) it is reasonably practicable for special education in ethics to be made available to the child at the government school, and

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(b) the parent requests that the child receive special education in ethics.

A government school cannot be directed (by the Minister or otherwise) not to make special education in ethics available at the school.